

Murphy arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived here Saturday from Saudi Arabia to discuss the pullout of Israeli troops from Lebanon and other Middle East problems. A U.S. embassy official said Mr. Murphy was scheduled to meet Sunday with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. His return to the Middle East, after an absence of five weeks, indicates renewed American interest in pushing forward Israel's planned pullout and reviving Middle East peace initiatives. Israeli and Lebanese military delegates have been negotiating for a month to bring about an end to Israel's 30-month occupation of Lebanon but little progress has been reported. The next round of United Nations-sponsored talks in the South Lebanese border village of Naqoura are scheduled for Monday. The talks have bogged down over Israeli demands for "security arrangements" in South Lebanon.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Arafat holds talks in Algeria

PARIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat began talks with Algerian officials soon arriving in Algiers Saturday, the official Algerian news agency APS said. He conferred with Mohammed Sherif Messadia, the number two man in the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) party, said APS, monitored in Paris. Mr. Arafat said on arrival from Tunis he would brief Algeria on results of a recent Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Amman, APS reported. Mr. Arafat, reelected chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the Amman session, said he would thank Algeria for its mediation efforts between rival Palestinian factions and for sending a delegation to Amman.

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Egypt-Israel ties not frozen — Baz

CAIRO (R) — A senior Egyptian official was quoted Saturday as saying Egypt had not frozen relations with Israel despite its recent rapprochement with Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Osama Al Baz, political adviser to President Hosni Mubarak, told the Egyptian weekly Akhbar Al Yom that Egypt still contacted Israel to explain its views on various issues. "Our relations with Israel have not been frozen... we always contact the Israelis to explain our views on Arab and other issues, including developments on the (Israeli-occupied) West Bank and Gaza Strip," Mr. Baz was quoted as saying.

U.N. votes for study on Israeli nuclear armament

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A U.N. committee has voted to fund a controversial study into Israeli nuclear armaments. The study would be prepared by U.N. disarmament groups in consultation with the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The vote in the administrative and budgetary committee was 68 to 7, with 17 abstentions. Israel, the United States, France, West Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom voted against the study and several other Western and African nations abstained.

Vietnam accuses China of shelling

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam accused China Saturday of firing more than 52,000 mortar and artillery rounds into its territory last month. Radio Hanoi, monitored here, said the Chinese firing, mainly at its northern province of Ha Tuyen, was accompanied by minor ground and sea intrusions. More than 100 Chinese troops were killed and more than 40 wounded in fighting along the frontier between Nov. 24 and 28, it said.

Union Carbide faces threats in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Threats were made to bomb two Union Carbide plants in Sydney, apparently in reprisal for the gas leak from the company's factory in Bhopal, India, which killed more than 2,000 people, police said Saturday. A police spokesman told Reuters the threats were made Friday night against the plants in the inner industrial suburbs of Rhodes and Rosebery. He said no further details were available, but police were taking the threats seriously. Union Carbide faces \$15 billion lawsuit, page 8

Honecker to visit Algeria Dec. 17-19

BERLIN (AP) — East German head of state and Communist Party chief Erich Honecker will pay an official visit to Algeria Dec. 17-19 for talks with President Chadli Benjedid, the official party newspaper Neues Deutschland reported Saturday.

U.S. bias necessitates international role in peace efforts — Hassan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — America's "pronounced partiality" and bias towards Israel is one of the main reasons behind Jordan's call for an international conference to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has said.

The Crown Prince said in an article published in the U.S. magazine, Foreign Policy, that the U.S. support for Israel had prejudiced America's role as an "honest peace broker" in the Middle East.

Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's call for an international conference under United Nations auspices like a meeting in Geneva in 1975 that included both the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

"In view of the pronounced partiality of the United States to Israel... Jordan has called for the institution of an international peace conference to conclude a comprehensive settlement of the conflict," Prince Hassan said in the article.

He said the participation of all parties directly involved in the conflict, including the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is "the only certain way of ensuring a just and lasting settlement."

"The gloomy prospect that stares Middle East states in the face is

that we may be plunged into an interminable internecine war that will spare no-one," Prince Hassan said.

Reiterating Jordan's commitment to the principles of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, the Crown Prince said Israel's continued establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank had undermined the peace process.

Eban supports 242

In another article in the same edition of the magazine former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban called on the U.S. to help negotiate and sponsor a settlement among Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians based on Resolution 242. Mr. Eban also said Washington should improve its relations with Syria so that the U.S. could play a more effective role in efforts to end the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon.

"There is no alternative to the United States as an agent of reconciliation in this region," said Mr. Eban, a member of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party and chairman of the Knesset (parliament) committee on foreign affairs and defence.

Israel has refused to negotiate with the PLO and rejected participation by Moscow, which Mr. Eban said had "disqualified itself by its blatant anti-Israeli bias and its refusal since 1968 to maintain diplomatic relations with Israel."

Mr. Eban, foreign minister under Golda Meir from 1966 to 1974, urged the Reagan administration to play a larger role in finding a peaceful solution in the Middle East or risk an escalation of the regional conflict.

"American passivity would condemn the Middle East to a volcanic status quo leading to possible explosion," he said.

Mr. Eban said a U.S. initiative was essential and American "passivity" at this stage would be tantamount to "active intervention against a possible era of reconciliation."

A first step for Washington, he said, would be to improve its relations with hardline Syria, which has maintained troops in Lebanon since that country's 1976 civil war.

He urged Washington to help negotiate an accord for an Israeli pullout from Lebanon and to sponsor a settlement among Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Hijackers release more hostages, say all Americans will be 'tried'

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Hijackers Saturday released 39 more passengers from the Kuwaiti Airbus held here but kept two Americans and three Kuwaiti officials among their remaining hostages, diplomatic sources and the local news agency said.

In a sudden move after first announcing they would free no more hostages, they released one batch of 16 closely followed by 23 more.

Reporters at the scene said the people freed appeared to be mostly Pakistanis.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said the hijackers had also asked for the parked aircraft to be refuelled and recharged, but the request for fuel was denied.

Several U.S. and Kuwaiti officials are still held with the remaining hostages, now believed to number around 18.

The hijackers also announced they would put all Americans aboard on trial and described the released passengers as "innocent," reported the official Iranian News Agency, IRNA.

Ten minutes after the trial announcement one of the American hostages speaking to the control tower through the radio introduced himself as Charles Kipper and pleaded with the Iranian authorities to meet the hijackers' demand and prevent further killings.

ings, IRNA reported. "Please meet their demands, because they are serious, please prevent further killing," IRNA quoted the American as saying.

IRNA later quoted one of the passengers released Saturday evening as saying that just before the release a group of hostages "made futile attempt to overpower one of the hijackers."

IRNA quoted Mohammad Iqbal, 21, a Pakistani, as saying the Kuwaiti passenger who planned the attack on the hijackers was beaten up by the gunmen.

The agency quoted Mr. Iqbal as saying the hijackers fired eight bullets at the windows of the Airbus, out of frustration apparently, because their demands had been left unanswered.

Earlier in the day, before the release of the passengers and the incident with Mr. Kipper, the hijackers told the control tower they intended to carry out their threat to start killing more hostages, because their demands were not met," IRNA reported.

The new dramatic development coincided with a declaration by Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati that Iran was ready to end the hijack through military force, but that it was Kuwait that was objecting to this course.

"Iran has been prepared to launch a military attack on the plane and release the passengers, but the Kuwaiti officials have not agreed to this option," Tehran Radio quoted Mr. Velayati as saying in a message to the Kuwaiti foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

Full details of the hijackers' demands have not been announced, but diplomats believe the hijackers want the release of 17 men jailed for involvement in bomb attacks in Kuwait last December.

They have already killed two officials of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and two unidentified hostages, and have named three Kuwaiti officials and another USAID representative as their next victims.

With broken windows apparently precluding the possibility of the plane leaving Iran, President Ronald Reagan and other U.S. officials accused Tehran of not doing all it could to end the drama and Kuwait's national assembly urged it to "seriously intervene" to free the hostages.

Released captives describe ordeal, page 2

PSP leaders debate army deployment plan

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Artillery battles broke out near Beirut Saturday as socialist opponents of a government security plan discussed revised proposals for army deployment in militia-held areas.

Sources told Reuters Walid Junblat, leader of the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), met aides at his mountain stronghold of Moukhtara to discuss the plan, revised Friday by the multisectarian army command council.

The deployment, delayed twice by PSP objections to the extent of army control in the Kharrub region south of the capital, is part of a government plan to extend control from Beirut into areas held by the country's warring factions.

The army move down the coast road to Israeli lines at the Awali River is also meant to prepare for army control of South Lebanon when Israel ends its 30-month occupation.

Military sources said the militias of the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" and the Shi'ite Muslim Amal movement had agreed to the new plan, while press reports said the new proposals watered down the army's role.

Right-wing Falange Radio reported that PSP militiamen shelled army positions near Beirut. PSP sources said the army shelled the PSP-held Shouf mountains.

No casualties were immediately reported.

The security plan's first stage, a modest army redeployment in Beirut 12 days ago, appeared to hit a setback Friday when a soldier was killed in fighting.

Press reports said the new draft of the second stage of the plan, in which an army brigade would move 38 kilometres south to Israeli lines, would be confined to a 500 metre strip inland.

Yugoslav president arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Yugoslav President Vseslav Djuranovic arrived in Kuwait Saturday for a two-day state visit and talks with Kuwaiti ruler Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti news agency reported.

Yugoslav officials said Friday the talks would cover international problems, bilateral economic relations and the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in finding peaceful solution to the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Djuranovic was accompanied by Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic and the Yugoslav co-chairman of the mixed committee for economic cooperation with Kuwait, Ljubomir Boban.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Information Minister Laila Sharaf (photo on right) Saturday hold talks with members of a visiting French parliamentary delegation (Petra photo)

Regent briefs French, Spanish delegations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday briefed two French and Spanish delegations on the current situation in the Middle East and the latest developments in the region and Jordan's stand vis-a-vis these developments, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

In separate meetings he held with the delegations, the Regent reviewed Jordan's relations with France and Spain and ways to develop these relations, Petra said. He also referred to the contribution of Europe in efforts to find a just and comprehensive peace settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the news agency said.

The French delegation's meeting with the Regent was attended by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayed and French Ambassador to Jordan Jacques Alain de Sedouy.

The Spanish delegation's meeting with the Crown Prince was attended by Mr. Fayed and Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Emilio Menendez.

Fayed urges European role

Earlier Saturday, Mr. Fayed received in his office the French delegation members, headed by Charles Debre, and, after discussing with them the latest developments and current situation in the Middle East, called on European nations to assume a leading role in efforts for peace in the region.

"Israel's continued aggressive policies are bound to threaten world peace and stability," Mr. Fayed told the delegation.

Mr. Fayed referred to the arbitrary Israeli measures against the Palestinians living under occupation and the Jewish state's escalation of building settlements in the occupied territories in defiance of all international laws and norms.

Mr. Fayed also referred to resolutions passed by Arab-European parliamentary meetings in Madrid last month calling for total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and South Lebanon, Petra said.

Sharaf briefs delegation

Later Saturday Minister of Information Laila Sharaf received in her office the French delegation. Mrs. Sharaf outlined to the delegation members latest developments in the Palestine problem and Jordan's stands vis-a-vis these developments.

"The Palestine problem is the main concern for Jordan, which strives relentlessly to find a just and durable solution based on the exchange of land for peace, as affirmed repeatedly by His Majesty King Hussein," Mrs. Sharaf said.

The minister also stressed the need for holding an international conference to solve the Middle East issue.

Such a conference, she said, should be attended by all concerned parties and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, the minister said, expressed unanimous world decision in ruling out the occupation of other countries' lands by force, and called for the Israeli forces to withdraw from the Arab lands; but Jordan saw the resolution as a first step to more resolutions.

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Yamani says inter-OPEC price policy changes agreed

KUWAIT (R) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said Saturday key OPEC committee had agreed on changes in the group's pricing policy, but its benchmark price would remain untouched.

The recent weakness in world oil prices was temporary, he said, and voiced confidence OPEC would be able to defend the benchmark of \$29 a barrel for Saudi Arabian light crude.

"I have no illusion about this," he told reporters.

He said after talks here among ministers appointed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to review overall pricing policy, that they had agreed on certain changes.

These would realign prices for the various light and heavy crudes produced by OPEC members around the benchmark level.

"We reached agreement and

differentials will be corrected to everyone's satisfaction," he said, but declined to give details.

Sheikh Yamani said the adjustments in price differentials — the gap between light and heavy crude charges based on quality and cost of shipment to markets — would be studied further before being presented to top-level OPEC meetings in Geneva later this month.

OPEC's market monitoring committee will meet on Dec. 18, to prepare for a biannual meeting of all ministers the next day.

Sheikh Yamani was speaking after talks Saturday afternoon with the oil ministers of Kuwait, Qatar and Libya, and earlier discussions attended by the oil minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The latter two are members of a three-man ministerial committee set up last July.

Gandhi, rivals denounce election campaign violence

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his political opponents Saturday denounced mounting election campaign violence in which two candidates have been killed and several others injured.

"Violence must not be allowed to grow and has no place in our society," the pro-government National Herald newspaper quoted Mr. Gandhi as saying.

Several newspapers carried pictures of injured opposition leader A. B. Vajpayee, showing him swathed in bandages at a hospital in western Gujarat state.

Mr. Vajpayee, who heads the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), told reporters an after-dark attack on his car two days ago had been planned and expertly carried out.

BJP General Secretary L.K. Advani told reporters the ruling Congress (I) Party wanted to prevent Mr. Vajpayee from campaigning for parliamentary polls due later this month.

Mr. Advani said he had written to Mr. Gandhi and India's independent Election Commission asking for measures to curb campaign violence.

Elections have been postponed in two constituencies in southern Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh states after two candidates were killed there last week.

Election officials have said two million troops, police and home guards will protect about 470,000 polling booths to ensure peaceful voting on Dec. 24, 27 and 28.

Chad to figure high in Franco-Zairean summit

KINSHASA (R) — President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Kinshasa Saturday at the start of a six-day African tour during which he will attend an annual informal Franco-African summit in Burundi next week.

Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko told journalists at Kinshasa airport before Mr. Mitterrand arrived by Concorde that he expected to discuss the situation in Chad with the French leader.

Mr. Mobutu, who will not be attending the summit because of a heavy agenda at home after his installation as president for a third seven-year term, said he was worried by the continuing presence of Libyan troops in Chad.

Libya had signed a binding document pledging withdrawal "but

has not respected it," he said.

Mr. Mobutu declined to comment on Mr. Mitterrand's journey to Crete on Nov. 15 to meet Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. "I am not well-placed to judge the action of another head of state," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand was greeted by cheering crowds of tens of thousands as he and Mobutu drove in an open-topped car from the airport to the Chinese-built People's Palace which towers over the Kinshasa skyline.

Along the route activists from Zaire's only political institution, the Popular Revolutionary Movement (MRP), held banners welcoming the French president as "the defender of the cause of Africa."

Mitterrand tightens control; Fabius welcomes reshuffle

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand has appointed close aide and long-time confidante Roland Dumas as external relations minister in a move regarded as reflecting his tighter personal control of day-to-day administration.

Mr. Dumas, a 62-year-old lawyer, was named in a minor government reshuffle Friday to take over from Claude Cheysson, who will join the European Community Commission in Brussels.

Mr. Dumas has had only one year's ministerial experience as European affairs minister, a post he combined with that of government spokesman.

The post of government spokesman went to a woman, Social Affairs Minister Georgina Dufoix, and the European affairs portfolio was made into that of a secretary of state and given to another woman, Consumer Affairs Secretary Catherine Lalumiere.

Mr. Mitterrand began a week-long tour of Africa Saturday, flying aboard an Air France Concorde to the Zaire capital of Kinshasa.

Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, welcoming the changes, said on radio: "This reshuffled government reflects what I want to make — that is a France which wins."

Political commentators said Mr. Fabius' appointment in July and the reshuffle reflected Mr. Mit-

terrand's desire to have key posts occupied by hand-picked people loyal to him personally.

This desire is particularly evident at the present time, they said, when Mr. Mitterrand is being criticised for failing to secure a withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad in circumstances the opposition has called a major French foreign policy blunder.

Outgoing External Relations Minister Cheysson negotiated a pact with Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi in September under which both countries would withdraw their troops from Chad.

Mr. Mitterrand met Col. Qadhafi in Crete last month and afterwards admitted that some 1,000 Libyan troops still remained in Chad despite a joint statement by

Paris and Tripoli that the withdrawal had been completed.

"After that debacle Cheysson had to go," said one diplomat in the French capital. "There was no way he could stay and Dumas has really been waiting in the wings."

Mr. Fabius said on French Radio: "The people who have been promoted are those who have proved themselves."

"That is evidently the case with Roland Dumas, who in European affairs distinguished himself by doing good work which ensured that this year was a great European one for France."

"It is also the case with Georgina Dufoix, who has succeeded well in social affairs."

"I find it excellent that a woman should be in the forefront."

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Fahd urges U.S. to support Palestinian self-determination

BAHRAIN (Agencies)—King Fahd of Saudi Arabia was quoted Saturday as urging the United States to support the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

He said in an interview that the only solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict was the withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories it occupied by force in the 1967 war. The interview with two Saudi newspapers and a Kuwaiti magazine, was also published by the Saudi Press Agency SPA.

"All we ask from the United States is to support the Palestinians' legitimate right to self-determination. In our opinion, the only solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is Israel's withdrawal from territories it occupied in 1967," he said.

Asked about inter-Palestinian differences, he said: "Our policy is non-interference in the Palestinians' internal affairs... but it is certain that a common framework would help them."

Saudi Arabia expressed support for a controversial meeting of the Palestine National Council in Amman last month despite a boycott by several Syrian-backed Palestine Liberation Organisation factions.

Saudi Arabia hinges its foreign aid programmes on Arab interests and respect by recipients for the Islamic faith, King Fahd said.

"The kingdom would reconsider that aid if it does not serve Arab interests and cultivate respect for the Islamic faith," the king said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter of crude oil, is the biggest Arab aid donor to Third World developing countries.

The Saudis avoid publicising the size of their aid to Arab countries. But informed Arab diplomatic

sources said the kingdom has been doling out \$3 billion annually to non-Arab countries.

According to the Gulf News Agency, the size of Saudi Arabia's foreign aid programme amounts to double that of Britain.

Turning to the Gulf region, the king said the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was in the process of setting up military industries "with a view to attaining self-reliance in defence."

He said that each of the GCC member countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman—would pursue its own military industries. These "separate efforts would eventually culminate in a unified military industry for the entire region."

The GCC summit conference in Kuwait last month decided to set up a joint Rapid Deployment Force for the defence of the region against the eventuality of an external military threat.

King Fahd did not disclose the financial aspects of the planned military industries.

The king praised the GCC as a serious experiment on the path toward Arab unity, expressing hopes that "more cooperation councils would crop up in the Arab World, in the interest of the overall Arab nation interest."

Murphy, Fahd hold talk

Meanwhile U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived unexpectedly from Washington Saturday and went straight into a closed-door session with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

reportedly on the Lebanese situation.

The official Saudi Press Agency reported the meeting without elaborating. It said that Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and the Saudi Ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan attended the meeting.

Arab diplomatic sources said Mr. Murphy was to exert fresh efforts with Saudi backing to break the deadlock in negotiations aimed at getting the Israelis to withdraw their troops from southern Lebanese regions.

These sources said the U.S. has been trying to facilitate the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations on that score, in hopes of aiding Lebanon to transcend the hazards of the civil war and the Israeli invasion.

After Saudi Arabia, Mr. Murphy was to visit Israel, Lebanon and Syria, the same sources said. They added that the American official also was expected to visit Egypt and Jordan.

Apart from the Lebanese crisis discussion with King Fahd, the two men also were to take a fresh look at the overall Arab-Israeli conflict and examine means of proceeding on with efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement.

It was Mr. Murphy's second visit here in five weeks. He last visited Riyadh on Oct. 30, when he attended a flag-raising ceremony at the new U.S. embassy here, which was shifted to the Saudi capital from the Red Sea port city of Jeddah.

The same diplomatic sources said that Mr. Murphy was expected to ask King Fahd's assistance to revive U.S. President Ronald Reagan's 1982 Middle East peace proposals.

The Reagan proposals have been dismissed as "unacceptable

and insufficient" by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which stopped short of rejecting them outright.

King Fahd two years ago offered his Mideast peace plan, which was later modified into the "Fez plan," approved by the Arab summit conference in Morocco in September 1982.

Mr. Murphy's parley with King Fahd coincided with commentaries and approving allusions in government-guided newspapers along the Gulf region to a call by Jordan and Egypt for an international peace conference on the Mideast.

The idea of an international conference is intended mainly to bring in the Soviet Union and Western European powers for a role in Mideast peacemaking.

The U.S. is the architect of the 1978 Camp David peace framework and the subsequent peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The Camp David drive espouses Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

The Reagan proposals also call for Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan. But Mr. Reagan stopped short of calling for an independent Palestinian state under the PLO.

King Fahd was expected to tell Mr. Murphy that the Reagan proposals do not constitute an acceptable frame for Mideast peace because of lack of U.S. recognition of the PLO.

The Saudi monarch has asked Washington to support the "right" of the Palestinian people to have a state of their own.

The Fez plan envisions an independent Palestinian state, with Arab Jerusalem as its capital, under the PLO.



END OF AN ORDEAL: Five passengers of a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner sit in a lounge at Tehran's Mehrabad airport after being released by the hijackers Friday. Most of the passengers are Pakistanis (AP wirephoto)

Oil slick approaching Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA (R)—Egyptian naval and marine experts are fighting a mysterious oil slick approaching Alexandria harbour, a port official said Saturday.

Traffic Manager Muhammad Ali Soliman told Reuters the slick, which he said contained an estimated 1,000 tonnes of crude oil, was spotted by helicopters Friday.

He said anti-pollution experts from the navy and the Suez-Mediterranean Oil Pipeline Company (SUMED) poured chemicals on the slick, which began to dissolve early Saturday.

Arab ministers to discuss agricultural development programme in Mogadishu

AMMAN (Petra)—Jordan will take part in an Arab Agriculture Ministers conference due to open in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, on Monday.

The seven-day meeting will hear a report on the activities of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) during 1984 and will discuss a plan for the coming year.

The conference is also expected to discuss courses and seminars which will be held in Arab countries, projects aimed at insuring

food security in the Arab World, and will explore the possibility of opening a new AOAD office in a number of Arab capitals.

The conference will also discuss subjects connected with drought in Africa and ways to help African states improve their agriculture.

Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, under-secretary of Ministry of Agriculture will leave for Somalia Sunday to take part in the meeting. He will be accompanied by a senior official from the Ministry of Agriculture.

U.N. calls on Israel to abandon canal project

UNITED NATIONS (R)—The United States and Israel have cast the only votes against a resolution again demanding that Israel abandon plans to build a canal linking the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea.

The draft, sponsored by a group of Arab and Islamic countries, says such a project would violate international law relating to occupied territories. It calls on governments and private corporations not to assist with the scheme.

The vote in the General Assembly's Special Political Committee, where the issue has been debated annually since 1981, was 115 to two, with one abstention (Ivory Coast).

The canal would utilise the 400-metre difference in elevation between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth, to generate electricity.

Opponents of the canal object that it would begin in the occupied Gaza Strip, Jordan, which shares the Dead Sea with Israel, also says it would suffer economic and ecological damage.

Ambassador Richard Schifter of the United States, explaining his negative vote, told the committee there was nothing to indicate the canal project would move to actual construction at any time in the foreseeable future.

If it were found to be feasible, it was possible it might be found beneficial to the entire area. In that case, a calm discussion among those directly involved seemed the best approach, he added.

Arab League calls for Palestinian state

UNITED NATIONS (R)—The Arab League underlined its support for the creation of an independent Palestinian state and described Israel as the obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

Arab League Spokesman Muhammad Al Farra told the U.N. General Assembly Friday that the unresolved Palestinian question was the core of all developments and conflicts in the area.

Welcoming the recent meeting of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in Amman, he said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had withstood internal challenges and remained the Palestinians' sole and legitimate representative.

Mr. Farra, the under-secretary general of the League of Arab States, supported the PLO's call for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli dispute, which would include the PLO and the two superpowers.

The United States and Israel have rejected such a conference, saying it would turn into a pro-

paganda exercise.

Mr. Farra accused Israel of "terror" against Palestinians, and said that it was attempting to "prepare the necessary conditions to annex what has remained of the occupied Palestinian lands."

Egypt's Ahmad Khalil said Israel must quit occupied Arab territories, including the West Bank, Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights.

The question of Palestine must be solved by negotiations in which the Palestinian people participated. "The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination is a holy and inalienable right that cannot be wrested from it by anyone."

They had the right to establish an independent state on their national soil or to choose a union, if they so wished, with any other entity through the free expression of their will. The Palestinians had chosen the PLO as their representative.

Mr. Khalil, representing the only Arab state to sign a treaty

with Israel, said his country had chosen the road of peace. Only peace based on justice could realise the interests of everyone.

Palestine would continue to be a theatre of slaughter, agony and loss of life if one party to the conflict continued to remain a prisoner of historic illusions and pursue its drive to dominate the other parties in the region. Mr. Khalil said.

The Saudi ambassador told the General Assembly that Arabs and Muslims, because of numerical superiority and resources, will prevail over Israel "one day that is not so far away."

Mr. Samir Shihabi attacked Israel for enlarging its occupation of Arab lands and blamed them in particular for usurping Jerusalem. "A location in the heart of the greater Arab nation and at the core of the Islamic World."

He spoke on the second of three days of debate on the question of Palestine during which virtually all of the 68 scheduled speakers have condemned Israel to some degree.

Released captives relate Kuwaiti plane hijack ordeal

WINDSOR, Canada (Agencies)—A Canadian woman who was released unharmed with her three children from a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner in Tehran says her captors shot crewmembers and beat their hostages.

"They behaved wildly when they took over the plane," said Khalida Tayyab in a telephone interview from her parents' home in Lahore, Pakistan Friday night.

"They were crazy. They shot crewmembers who tried to interfere," she said. The hijackers separated Americans and Kuwaitis from the mainly Pakistani and Arab passengers, placing them in a different section of the plane.

"We weren't mistreated like the men. They beat the men, especially the Americans. They said openly they wouldn't let any Americans or Kuwaitis go. That's why they shot the American diplomat."

The plane was hijacked Tuesday morning during a flight from the United Arab Emirates to Pak-

istan and forced to land in Tehran. Details of events inside the plane are sketchy. The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported the hijackers killed at least four hostages and tortured one by cutting off a thumb.

Mrs. Tayyab, who is from Windsor, and her children—Imran, 9, Jamal, 4 and Erum, 2—were among the first passengers released from the plane when it landed Tuesday in Tehran.

"We were really terrified," she said. "They moved the women and children to the back of the plane and started shooting at the crew. I was so terrified I ran into the washroom with my children. You couldn't predict what they would do."

"They were really crazy people. They said they were going to kill. They punched and beat a Kuwaiti diplomat and said they were going to hang him."

She said although her children were not hurt "it will be hard for them to forget what happened."

An Iranian student released by the hijackers said Friday more passengers could be killed by the hijackers "any moment." IRNA reported.

The agency, monitored here, quoted the student Fazlollah Amin Al Sharra, as saying "officials" should persuade the hijackers to release the remaining 58 passengers aboard the Kuwaiti Airbus as soon as possible.

"We saw ourselves that the lives of the passengers are in serious danger, especially the Americans and the Kuwaitis," the student was quoted as saying.

Amin Al Sharra was released earlier in the day with another Iranian student and six Pakistanis, after Iranian authorities agreed to broadcast a statement from the hijackers over the Iranian state news media.

The statement reiterated earlier threats by the hijackers to kill American and Kuwaiti hostages unless Kuwait met their demands to release prisoner friends from

Kuwaiti jails.

The release of the eight persons came after IRNA reported that shooting had been heard from inside the plane. Hours after shooting was reported there was still no clue as to exactly what had happened.

The other Iranian student, Mohammad Abdullah Zadeh, was quoted by IRNA as saying the eight released hostages saw two men on the floor of the plane near the exit, with their hands and feet tied. It was not clear from IRNA's report whether they had been shot or not.

IRNA also quoted Mohammad Sajid Tapli, a Pakistani doctor who was among the eight, as warning against the launching of armed action to end the hijacking. "Because of the dangers facing the passengers, and the determination of the hijackers."

Tapli said the hijackers had prepared a list and intended to release 20 hostages but changed their minds in the last minute.

"The hijackers acted very strangely. They were completely in control and very skillful. It was not possible to predict their actions."

Reagan criticises Iran

U.S. President Ronald Reagan criticised Iran Friday over its handling of the hijack of a Kuwaiti plane to Tehran and the State Department said it wanted no compromise with the hijackers, who apparently have killed two U.S. officials.

Mr. Reagan told a televised news conference he could not charge Iran with collaborating with the hijackers. "I have to say, however, that they have not been as helpful as they could be in this situation or as I think they should have been," he said.

He reinforced his view later, telling reporters: "I can't charge there has been any complicity, but I cannot say there has been any real effort to help" by Iran.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION		BBC WORLD SERVICE		TODAY'S EVENTS		EMERGENCIES	
MAIN CHANNEL		639, 720, 1413 KHz		EXHIBITIONS		TAXIS	
17:00.....Koran		6:00 Newsweek 6:30 Juke Box Dury		* Art exhibition by Ibrahim Arar, at		Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy	
17:15.....Cartoons		6:45 News Review 6:55 Reflections		Regency Palace Hotel, from Dec. 5 to 9.		Malek pharmacy	
17:45.....Children's Programme		7:00 World News 7:10 24 Hours		* An exhibition of oil and water colour		Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy	
18:05.....Around the World in 80 days		7:45 News Summary 7:55 Good		paintings by the 19th Century		Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy	
18:35.....Children's Programme		Books 8:45 Letter from America 8:50		original artists. Mumtaz, Jabal		Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy	
18:55.....Local Programme		Newsweek 8:55 Jazz for the Asking		Lusail, Amman. Opening hours 9		Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy	
19:05.....Programmes Review		12:30 Religious Service 1:00 World		a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel.		Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy	
19:40.....News Summary		News 12:30 World News 12:40 24		664240.		Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy	
19:55.....News in Arabic		Hours: News Summary 7:30 From Our Own		* An exhibition of Islamic books at the		Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy	
20:30.....Local Programme		Correspondent 8:55 Letter from Lon-		University of Jordan Library.		Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy	
21:15.....Arabic Series		don 18:00 World News 18:10 Reflec-		MUSICAL		HOSPITALS	
21:25.....Toneless Programme		tions 18:45 Sports Round-up		* An art exhibition by Na'im Jabra		Hussein Medical Centre	
22:25.....Jerash Festival Highlights		11:00 World News 11:05 British		Sadra at 4:00 p.m. at the Petra Bank		Khalid Maternity, J. Ann	
23:00.....News in Arabic		Press Review 11:15 Sports Review 11:45		Gallery, Wadi Saqr Street (today is the		Akil Maternity, J. Amman	
23:10.....Highlights Contd.		Places of Hope 12:00 News Summary:		last day).		Dar Al-Sila, J. Hussein	
FOREIGN CHANNEL		Short Story 12:15 Classical Record Re-		DOCUMENTARY		Malhas, J. Amman	
18:00.....French Varieties		view 12:30 Religious Service 1:00 World		* The American Centre will show a mu-		Palestine, Shamsan	
19:00.....News in French		News 13:00 World News 13:05 World		sical documentary on two of America's		Shamsan Hospital	
20:00.....News in Arabic		News 13:05 World News 13:10 World		greatest gospel singers Mother Willie		University Hospital	
20:30.....Bob New Hart		News 13:10 World News 13:15 World		McFord Smith and Professor Thomas		Al-Musharraf Hospital	
21:00.....Towards 2000		News 13:15 World News 13:20 World		A. Dorsey at 7:00 p.m. Sunday.		The Islamic, Abdali	
21:10.....American Caesar		News 13:20 World News 13:25 World		CULTURAL CENTRES		Al-Ahli, Abdali	
22:00.....News in English		News 13:25 World News 13:30 World		Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267		Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	
22:15.....Magnus		News 13:30 World News 13:35 World		Tel. 44371		Army, Marka	
RADIO JORDAN		News 13:35 World News 13:40 World		American Centre Library		NIGHT DUTY	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM		News 13:40 World News 13:45 World		British Council		AMMAN:	
at 950 KHz, SW		News 13:45 World News 13:50 World		French Council		Dr. Dawoud Al Samhouri	
07:00.....Light Music		News 13:50 World News 13:55 World		British Council		Dr. Hisham Abu Arqoub	
07:30.....Newsweek		News 13:55 World News 14:00 World		French Council		MARKET PRICES	
08:00.....Morning Show		News 14:00 World News 14:05 World		French Council		Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.	
08:30.....News Summary		News 14:05 World News 14:10 World		French Council		Apple (double red)	
09:00.....Morning Show		News 14:10 World News 14:15 World		French Council		Apple (golden)	
10:00.....News Summary		News 14:15 World News 14:20 World		French Council		Apple (starken)	
10:30.....Morning Show		News 14:20 World News 14:25 World		French Council		Banana (Mukammur)	
11:00.....Pop Session		News 14:25 World News 14:30 World		French Council		Banana (Mukammur)	
12:00.....News Summary		News 14:30 World News 14:35 World		French Council		Broad beans	
12:30.....Pop Session		News 14:35 World News 14:40 World		French Council		Cabbage	
13:00.....News Summary		News 14:40 World News 14:45 World		French Council		Carrot	
13:30.....News Bulletin		News 14:45 World News 14:50 World		French Council		Cauliflower	
14:00.....News Bulletin		News 14:50 World News 14:55 World		French Council		Cucumber (large)	

Prince Hassan, scholars pay tribute to Dr. Ghoul

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday opened a seminar at Yarmouk University devoted to honouring the late Dr. Mahmoud Al Ghoul, a former university professor and well-known scholar.

In a speech at the seminar, Prince Hassan paid tribute to Dr. Ghoul, his works and writings on history, philosophy and literature. Honouring Dr. Ghoul reflects the university's respect for the scientist's research work and encourages the rising generation to follow suit, Prince Hassan said.

Also speaking at the seminar were Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra

from the University of Jordan, Dr. Nicola Zideh from the American University of Beirut and Dr. Ismail Akwas, director of manuscripts and antiquities at North Yemen's university.

At the outset of the seminar, Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran made a speech in which he also paid tribute to the works of the late scholar and said that the university will continue the practice of honouring literary men, scholars and scientists who render additional service to the community. Dr. Ghoul, who died last year, was born in Palestine and held a doctoral degree from London University.

Abdul Jaber discusses U.N. social development cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jaber conferred here Saturday with Mrs. Leticia Shahani, secretary general of the International Women's Conference which is to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, next year to mark the United Nations Decade of Women.

Mrs. Shahani, who is also U.N. assistant secretary general for social development, discussed with the minister U.N.-Jordanian cooperation in social development and women's affairs.

Dr. Abdul Jaber returned to Amman Friday after taking part in a conference of the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs which concluded in Tunis on Tuesday.

During his three-day stay in Tunis, he met with Arab ministers to discuss social development and labour issues and also explored the prospect of establishing the Princess Rahma Community Development Centre in Allan, west of Amman, as a regional centre for rural development.

Dr. Abdul Jaber also met with his Tunisian counterpart to discuss cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia in social affairs, within the framework of a bilateral agreement signed in 1982.

Upon his return to Amman, Dr. Abdul Jaber said that the ministers meeting discussed subjects related to social development and the setting up of an Arab fund for social affairs and labour, taking part in international conference on population, women and social welfare.

According to Dr. Abdul Jaber, the ministers council decided to extend a grant of \$300,000 to the inhabitants of south Lebanon and another unspecified sum for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to help them deal with the consequences of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The council also approved the organisation of two training courses in Amman in the coming year to discuss topics related to workers and social affairs.

Hamarneh opens information media script writing course

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Information Under Secretary Michael Hamarneh opened in Amman Saturday a training course on radio, television and newspaper script writing.

He said in a speech to the participants, gathered at Al Hussein Youth City, that development information has been assuming increasing importance world-wide and especially in developing countries in view of the desire of these countries to develop their human and material resources.

Mr. Hamarneh said that Jordan has attached great importance to

developmental information and has geared it to serve its various economic and social programmes.

Also addressing the seminar was Mr. Walid Dreishan, director of the development information department who made a speech in which he outlined the department's programmes.

A total of 35 employees from different information services are taking part in the course organised by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the U.N. Fund for Population Activities.

TASS delegation tours Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — A visiting delegation from the Soviet News Agency, TASS, Saturday visited a number of tourist, economic and archaeological landmarks in Aqaba. The delegation also met with Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) President Mohammad Said Abu Nowar who briefed them on the city's development projects being carried out by the ARA in the region and the ARA's future plans.

Earlier the delegation met with Mr. Jawad Maraga, director general of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

They discussed cooperation

between the two news agencies in the exchange of news, press and information material, and agreed to sign an agreement on Sunday to organise such cooperation.

The two sides also discussed ways of holding training courses for staff and for developing technical aspects in news reporting methods. The delegation, which arrived in Amman last week at the invitation of Petra, has toured development projects in the Jordan Valley and were briefed by Jordan Valley Authority officials on programmes to develop the Jordan Valley region.

Financiers attend conference on Jordan Valley irrigation project

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour Saturday opened a conference for the financiers of the south Jordan Valley irrigation project. The conference is being attended by representatives from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Saudi Fund for Development and the Japanese Fund for Overseas Economic Cooperation.

Dr. Nsour reviewed the importance of the project pointing out the Jordanian development plans

and the interest in developing the agricultural sector within the framework of integrated development adopted by the government. The three-day conference is aimed at introducing the project goals and coordinating contribution to its financing.

The project includes the construction of two dams, the first on Wadi Al Hassa and the second on Wadi Al Mujibb, in addition to the necessary irrigation networks to irrigate an area of 56,000 dunums in the south Jordan Valley area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordanian student dies in Yugoslavia

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received a cable from the Jordanian embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, saying that a Jordanian student, Tareq Issam Abdul Razzaq Al Kurdi, who is studying at the city of Nis died in an accident Friday. The ministry has requested his family to contact officials at the ministry.

Syrian oil delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Syrian national oil company arrived here Saturday on a four-day visit to the Natural Resources Authority (NRA). The four-member delegation will get acquainted with NRA activities in the field of prospecting for oil and its experience in this field. The Syrian team will exchange information with NRA specialists regarding prospecting for oil. The delegation will also visit a number of sites where the NRA is conducting oil prospecting projects.



Participants at the opening session of a four-day round table discussion on agrarian structural changes review the impact of urban development and policies on agriculture and the rural population (Petra photo)

Agricultural experts review impacts of agrarian reform on rural populations

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Agricultural reform should not only deal with land ownership, but reach beyond that to production, income distribution and social justice, Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Hassan Nabulsi said Saturday.

Mr. Nabulsi was speaking at the opening session of a seminar on agrarian structural changes and rural poverty alleviation in the Near East region. He also said that when discussing agrarian structure changes, the importance of a comprehensive view of land and man, and the relationship between them, should be stressed.

Mr. Nabulsi also pointed out the importance given by the countries in the region to industrial and urban development, thus, resulting in an imbalance development. In this era cities were given priority over rural areas and industry over agriculture, Mr. Nabulsi said. All of this resulted in a gap in the socio-economic structure and Jordan has given this issue a great importance and increased attention is being given to agriculture, he said.

Also speaking at the opening session was Mr. Salah Jum'a, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) regional representative for the Near East region. In his opening speech Mr. Jum'a pointed out that the development plans concentrated on the increase of agricultural production, plans which generally succeeded. On the other hand, these plans failed in narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, and it was noticed that the rich became richer and the poor, poorer, he said.

"Therefore, our main aim is to find out the problems that caused this since, such a discussion cannot possibly reach final solutions, but can only shed more light on the issues at hand; and submit its recommendations to the international organisations concerned," said Mr. Jum'a.

The four-day seminar is organised by the FAO technical assistance programme to countries in the Near East region, in cooperation with the JCO. About twenty-five developmental experts and scholars are participating from 13 different countries and

from FAO member states. Also included are participants from academic institutions concerned with rural development in addition to representatives from a number of international, regional and Arab organisations.

Rural poverty

The purpose of the round table meeting is to analyse the impact of the inter-related dynamic forces, domestic and international on economic growth, income distribution and the perpetuation of rural poverty in the countries of the region. The talks will also review the recent changes in agrarian structures and land tenure systems with a view to assessing their impact on rural development and consequently on alleviating poverty, to identify anti-poverty policies and programmes, to recommend them to countries, FAO and other United Nations organisations, to recommend necessary action to assist countries in the above subjects, and to suggest issues for future studies and possible methodological approaches to assist the countries of the Near East in identifying the causes of rural poverty and monitoring the progress made in its alleviation.

Dr. Riad El-Ghomy, deputy director of the FAO Human Resources Institution and Agrarian Reform Division, presented a detailed study on economic growth, income distribution and rural poverty in the Near East. Dr. Ghomy defined poverty as "the deprivation of a minimum of human needs, level of nutrition, education, health, and sanitation, specified in the context of each society." He said "to remove absolute poverty is to raise those who are deprived of these human needs above the level of deprivation, and to provide them with greater opportunities to participate in development. They are all inter-linked with each other and together are associated with economic growth and income distribution." He added that the agricultural output, being the main source of employment and income of the rural poor, and the changing trend in the disparities between the rural and urban incomes indicate the extent of income inequality.

Income inequalities

The study also aimed at exploring why and how the unprecedented growth in most Near East countries since 1970 has failed to reduce the increasing income inequalities and to eradicate or substantially mitigate rural poverty and what the countries might do individually and in cooperation which each other to benefit the poor.

The study also raised a set of questions on developmental issues arising from domestic policies on structural changes related to economic growth, income distribution, agrarian structures, trade, investment in human resources in rural areas and their opportunities for effective participation. The study also examined the implications of the changes in oil revenues in the region and external forces resulting from the world economic recession, Dr. Ghomy said.

Dr. Adel Beshai, head of the economics department at the American University in Cairo, discussed his study on recent changes in the agrarian structure in some countries of the Near East, and their impact on rural poverty alleviation.

He said: "It is generally true that many countries in writing up their development plans, are looking at the agricultural production function in a mechanistic fashion. This assumption is often implicit in nature." He added that the agrarian structure is a complex term which comprises all the tenure relationship, institutions, and all the elements that form an interlocking part of one system.

A third study will be presented on governments anti-rural poverty policy, programmes and other action, which will be introduced by Dr. Fahmy Bishay, FAO and Dr. Samir Radwan, senior economist in the rural employment policy branch of the FAO employment and policy department.

The seminar was attended by Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jaber and Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani. Participants also elected Mr. Hassan Nabulsi as president elect of this seminar.

Education, Health Ministries increase efforts to alleviate shortage of nurses

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — According to statistics collected for 1982 by the National High Committee for Nurses, Jordan has the lowest number of nurses per patients of all the Arab countries. While Egypt, for example, had one nurse for every 286 patients, and Algeria one for every 1,265, Jordan had a nurse for every 2,000 patients, with a total of 1,205 nurses distributed to all different sectors in the Kingdom.

The total number of midwives in 1982 were 272, or one per 4,000 patients, a number obviously insufficient if we consider that most deliveries in Jordan are still practised at home with the midwife's assistance.

Mrs. Samira Komok, director of the Nursing College at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman, says the situation has improved since then, but the number of nurses is still inadequate to meet the needs of the country.

At the end of 1982, the National High Committee of Nurses estimated that 1,767 nurses would be needed in 1985 in order to start, even minimally, to meet these needs. In order to reach this goal, each year from 1983, 281 nurses were to graduate from all nursing colleges in the Kingdom. Ms. Komok says, however, that

the average number of graduates at the present are about 100 per year, so she predicts that, even for the coming year, the country will have to resort to employing foreign nurses, such as from the Philippines, Pakistan or India.

Increasing efforts

Both the Ministries of Education and of Health have been increasing their efforts during the past years trying to remedy this situation and Ms. Komok is optimistic about the future. She says the main reason for this shortage of nurses is due to the fact that, up until last year, the Ministry of Health had only one nursing college, the one located at Al Bashir Hospital, and students from other provinces were often reluctant to leave their families and homes to come to Amman for their studies. In 1984, however, one more nursing college was opened in Irbid and one in Zarqa, bringing the number of applicants this year to 1,000 in the three colleges, of which 350 were accepted.

In order to encourage girls to take up this profession, the Ministry of Health also raised salaries and grades a few years ago, so that now, says Ms. Komok, a nurse may get a better salary than an university graduate. Besides, the Ministry of Education just started a new policy of advising students on what direction of studies to

take, keeping in mind the needs of the country. So students are always reminded of the need for nurses and midwives, and in a country where many university graduates are unemployed, a certainty of a job has a definite allure.

Besides the three government colleges, each university in the country also has a nursing school, and one more is sponsored by the Army at the military hospital. Only government colleges, however, offer midwifery courses.

The course for nurses lasts for four academic years, the one for midwives lasts for 3 academic years, and there is a 2 year post-basic midwifery course also for nurses who have completed the basic course, but who want to take up midwifery as well.

The total of students for the nursing course at the Al Bashir Nursing College is, this year, 395, 115 males and 280 females. Ms. Komok attributes the high number of males to the fact that, although nursing is traditionally a female profession, in Arab countries a male patient often feels more comfortable with male nurses and vice versa. The total numbers of students in the midwifery courses are 93. At the end of 1984, there will be 71 graduates: 15 from the midwifery course, 8 from the postbasic midwifery course, and 48 from the nursing course.

International fund focuses on social, health education

UNICEF allocates \$250,000 to half child mortality rate

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has allocated \$250,000 to reduce the child mortality rate in Jordan by 50 per cent over the next five years, UNICEF office director in Amman announced Saturday.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Hassan Shawareb told reporters that UNICEF will be coordinating efforts with the Jordanian government "within the Kingdom's next five-year development plan."

Statistics from the international organisation indicate that the main cause for children's deaths was dehydration caused by diarrhoea—a disease that represents, the number one enemy to UNICEF. UNICEF distributes oral rehydration salts free of charge to children, mainly in poor and rural areas as a means of combatting diarrhoea.

Mr. Shawareb said that the 1982-1984 UNICEF plan did not meet its projected targets "because it was a realistic target." However, he said, "we hope we will overcome these obstacles by setting more realistic schemes in the future."

The UNICEF office in Amman, established in 1968 after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, has since renewed its contract with the Jordanian government every three years.

Within the last contract, Mr. Shawareb said that the office concentrated on the "national vaccination project" as well as a kind of integrated services in rural areas. The project combined social development, general and health education which was largely included in the national vaccination campaign since 1979.

Briefing the press about the representative UNICEF office's activities, achievements, ambitions and obstacles it is facing, Mr. Shawareb said that part of the future projects will be dedicated to the "eradication of illiteracy; mother's education, education techniques, adequate nutrition as well as breast feeding, family spacing in addition to vaccination."

Development projects

Outlining the latest achievements of the UNICEF office in Amman, Mr. Shawareb said the office has just finalised the first phase of "Al Kiteh" development project near Jerash.

while the second phase is currently being implemented south of Madaba which is handling social issues.

In response to a question whether UNICEF has had any financial difficulties recently, Mr. Shawareb pointed out that UNICEF is the only United Nations international organisation that does not have a deficit in its budget.

The UNICEF \$340 million budget depends mainly on governmental contributions and private donations including stationary and publication assistance which reached \$20 million last year. The Jordanian government contribution was \$10,000 last year.

Mr. Shawareb concluded by expressing his hope that the \$250,000 project aimed at reducing child mortality rate in Jordan by 50 per cent would succeed by coordinating between the Amman office and other UNICEF offices mainly in the Far East "in order to implement the plan properly and to achieve best results." He said the experience of Far East countries and Egypt in the Middle East showed that child mortality rates can be reduced by 50 per cent.

The \$250,000 allocated for the reduction of child mortality rate in Jordan is considered as the first amount to be followed by more allocations throughout the five-year project which will begin in 1986.

Aqaba 'twins' with Tunisian town

AQABA (Petra) — Mayor of Al Hammamat city in Tunisia Mohammed Buthaina and Aqaba District Governor Khalil Khreisat Saturday signed a document announcing the twinning of the two cities and paving the way for joint cooperation.

The signing followed a visit to Aqaba by the Hammamat mayor accompanied by Bashir Al Hamidi, governor of the district of

Nabel in Tunisia, who made a speech at the signing ceremony expressing appreciation to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, for supporting the idea of twinning the two cities. Prince Hassan signed a document in 1980 in Al Hammamat as a first step towards the twinning, Mr. Hamidi said. He added that the two cities should now launch joint cooperation programmes. The

Hammamat mayor also spoke on the occasion outlining his city's history and development.

Mr. Khreisat also made a speech underlining the importance of the document which, he said, will help the two cities embark on joint social and economic ventures as they both have similar natural and geographical features and social structure.

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Senior Editor:

RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan

Telephone: 666320, 666265 Telex: 21497 ALRAJJO

Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan

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New 'trend' or trickery?

IN A debate broadcast on Israel Television last Thursday, an Arab member of the Knesset, Mr. Abdul Wahab Darawsheh, contended that his failure to come to Amman to address the Palestine National Council (PNC) would not stop him from pursuing "similar initiatives" to build a channel of communication between the Israelis and the Arabs. Mr. Darawsheh's attempt to address the PNC stirred a controversy inside Israel while Jordanian and Palestinian officials refrained from direct comments.

In Thursday's debate, Mr. Darawsheh, who belongs to the Israeli Labour Party, defended his initiative on the basis that "it was time for Arabs who live in Israel to assume their role as a potential bridge between the Israelis and the Palestinians."

He noted that ever since the inception of the Israeli state, the consecutive Israeli governments denied any role for the Arabs in negotiations between Israel and any Arab country.

It is an established fact that many Israeli Arabs, who belong to left-wing Israeli political parties, have played an important role in building bridges between sectors of the Israeli society and the PLO. But Mr. Darawsheh's attempt was the first of its kind by a Knesset member of a major party and revealed a new trend among those Israeli Arabs who chose to work with self-proclaimed Zionist parties.

"Many Arabs believe that we Israeli Arabs are Israeli agents. This is wrong because I am Palestinian and belong to the Palestinian people despite my loyalty to Israel," Mr. Darawsheh told his interviewer.

His statement about his dual loyalty is no doubt debatable and can even be disputed. But we cannot ignore the emerging trend among Israeli Arab politicians who seem to be yearning to assume a role for themselves in finding a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question.

In fact, several fellow Israeli Arab politicians did criticise Mr. Darawsheh for failing to carry out his mission. There is not yet a clear idea about what Mr. Darawsheh and those who support him were up to and why they have waited so long to move on this issue.

On the one hand, Mr. Darawsheh might be sincere in his efforts despite his belonging to the Israeli Labour Party which orchestrated the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights in 1967 and that launched the settlements programme. But on the other hand, we have many reasons to doubt such sudden shifts, the whole thing may just reveal a plan by the Labour Party, which has precedents in trying to contact PLO leaders, with the aim of using its Arab members to reach the "moderate" Palestinian leaders and eventually create more divisions within the Palestinian ranks.

PLO officials have agreed that allowing Mr. Darawsheh to address the PNC might have caused divisions within the Labour Party, but also admit that he would have also acted as a "time bomb" that would have further aggravated the problems inside the PLO.

Whether Mr. Darawsheh's attempt to establish a new contact with the Palestinian leadership is the precursor of a new effort to move things in the Middle East cannot be known yet. What the whole experience has taught us is equally unclear.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Unfriendly French gesture

ISRAELI Prime Minister Shimon Peres visited France and discussed with French leaders the purchase of nuclear reactors for Israel. Reports said that France has agreed through negotiations to sell Israeli reactors worth at least \$3 billion. Israeli sources said that Peres had made several visits to France for purchasing the reactors when he was leader of the opposition and in full agreement with the then Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Despite Peres's denial of the deal, the facts are there, and the Israeli press described the visit as a nuclear visit. The French for their part have avoided making any mention of the deal so as not to provoke the Arab countries. Of course the Arabs should not interfere in France's internal affairs nor should anybody give advice to the French government. But it should be said that supplying Israel with nuclear reactors cannot be conducive to peace or stability in the region. It is like granting Israel a reward for its intransigence and denial of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland.

It is true that France's prime minister announced before Peres that a just settlement to the Middle East question should ensure the rights of the Palestinian people, but Israel would not take this seriously since all the French official statements cannot affect the nuclear reactors deal with France. Giving the Arabs lip-service and tranquillising doses of statements, and granting Israel the means for bolstering its power and maintaining its occupation is unacceptable. We really regret to see France following in the footsteps of the United States, which eventually saw its credibility being eroded from the whole Arab region.

Al Dustour: Positive Italian statement

STATEMENTS MADE by Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi in Tunis Friday assume a special significance because they reflect a conviction in Europe that the Arabs are sincerely working towards the establishment of a lasting Middle East peace.

These statements are important because they came from a prime minister whose country will play chairman for the European Community meetings over the coming six months. Mr. Craxi of course must have had in mind the resolutions of the Fez Arab summit in 1982 and also the recent resolutions of the Palestine National Council meeting in Amman. Both resolutions are in line with Jordan's policies and its drive to bring about a just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Italy also bears great responsibilities within the European Community and it will certainly play a constructive role in the coming months.

Sawt Al Shaab: Special U.N. responsibility

THE PALESTINE question is now being debated at the U.N. General Assembly as it has been debated in the last year and the previous years. The file of the Palestine question has been bulging every year because Zionist aggression has been increasing over these years. But perhaps the most significant aspect of this year's debate was a speech by Farouk Al Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department who said that the PLO is concentrating its efforts with Jordan for reaching a formula for peace. He also supported Jordan's call for convening an international conference on the Middle East to resolve the Palestine issue.

The United Nations, where the debate takes place, bears a major responsibility in solving the issue because Israel has established according to its resolutions, and it is the world body which issued Resolutions 242 and 338 to end Israel's occupation of Arab land. Israel has benefited from U.N. resolutions and established its state on Palestinian land.

Controversial issues dominate Agricultural Seminar

By Fahed Fanek

DURING THE agricultural seminar held in Amman and sponsored by Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation on the Nov. 27-28, several controversial issues emerged. Following is a sample of these issues:

* A debate took place on whether or not we have an agricultural policy at all in Jordan. Some participants denied the very existence of such a policy, while others thought that we have several policies adopted by various agricultural institutions operating independently without effective coordination. Another group believed that we do have an agricultural policy, but it is not sound, effective or even feasible and accordingly it must be changed.

* Dr. Khalil Al Salem raised an issue of controversy between serving the interest of either the consumer or the producer. The agricultural policy, he said, should formulate a position. For himself, he is more inclined to support the producer. Dr. Jawad Anani, minister of industry and trade

called for the differentiation between supporting agriculture and supporting the farmer. He did not elaborate on this distinction.

* Growing wheat attracted a heated discussion. Certain participants think that there is a conspiracy to suppress wheat growing in Jordan. Mr. Hamad Al Farhan called for self-sufficiency in the area of wheat production to achieve food security. Mr. Salah Jum'a reiterated that this target is not realistic and cannot be achieved, and claimed that all professionals confirm this opinion. Dr. Adeeab Haddad of the Central Bank believes that self-sufficiency in wheat is a possibility provided we utilise all the idle but cultivable area for this purpose, apparently assuming that semi-arid and marginal areas can give the same productivity of the area currently used to produce wheat.

* Dr. Mahmud Duwayri gave rise to genuine hopes of wheat self-sufficiency by demonstrating the possibility of stepping up productivity five fold or more as proven in ex-

perimental research stations in Taybeh and Ramtha. Others were skeptical and refused the possibility of generalising the results of test cases in cultivated areas because of the uneconomical size of ownership and other difficulties and shortcomings.

* Food self-sufficiency was a hot topic. Those taking part in the overheated discussions were not on the same wavelength. Some participants understood self-sufficiency as synonymous to food security, others thought of it as doing without imports, while yet another group thinks that self-sufficiency means balancing imports of needed food-stuffs by exporting surpluses of other stuffs, thus benefiting from the relative advantages of the country and reducing costs.

* Most of the activists were calling for more policies, actions, and regulations by the government. The minister of industry and trade wondered if that means that everything should be decided by the government, which could turn into a monopoly in the agricultural

sector. He believed that market forces should be given a role to play. The irony was that those who wanted more government policy-making, disagreed with the government face to face.

* Mr. Muryad Al Tell, a controversial farmer with original but extreme ideas, complained that government investments in the agricultural sector were concentrated in the Jordan Valley, dealt with as if it is the only cultivable spot in Jordan. He also described any policy that gives priority in public investments to non-agricultural sectors as a national blunder.

* Several commentators raised the subject of middlemen or brokers who seize the lion's share at the expense of the producer. Dr. Khalil Al Salem was astonished to find that the farmer who spends six months working hard to provide the market with some product cannot have more than half the price paid by the consumer, whereas the middleman gets the other half in one day, which he thought to be extremely

unfair.

* Dr. Suleiman Arabiat took the risk of defending the constructive role of brokers in the marketing process. He was naturally subjected to bitter criticism from those who believe wholeheartedly that middlemen are parasites the role of which must be eliminated.

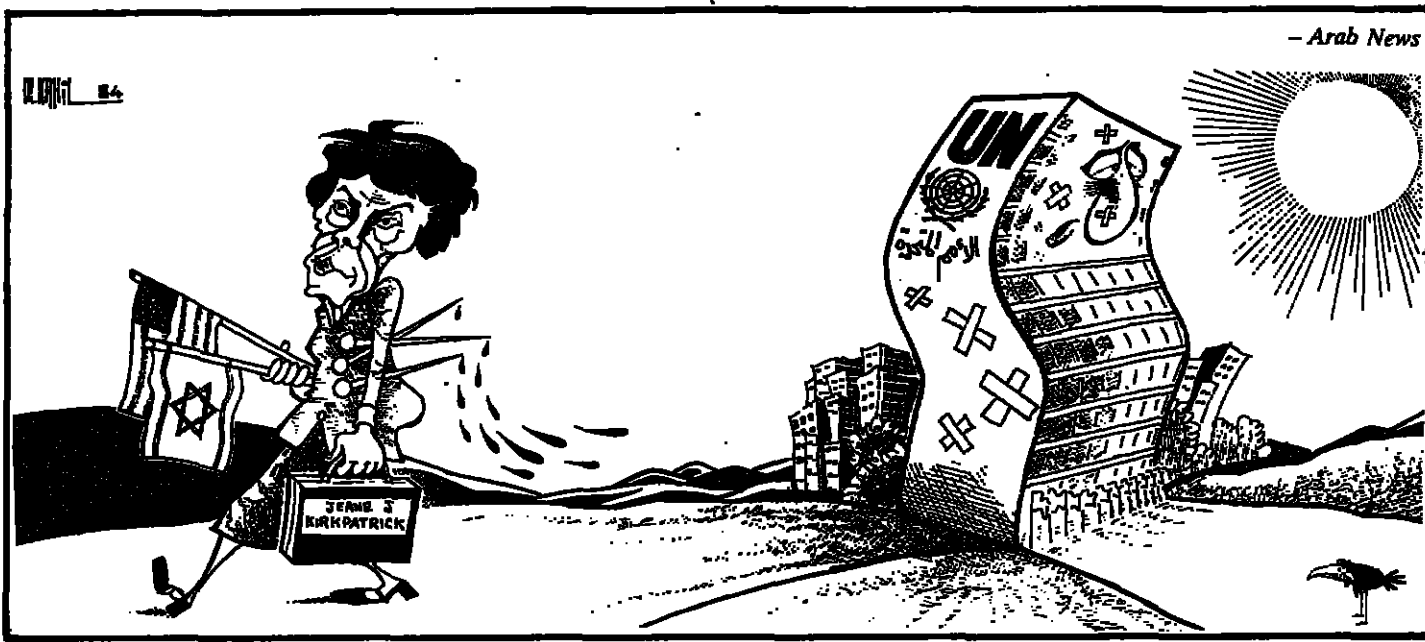
In this respect, we should recall the fact that the farm price of vegetables and fruits in an advanced country like America does not exceed 32 per cent of the price paid by the final consumer, the balance goes to middlemen in the form of grading, packing, transport, storing, fees and taxes, other expenses and profits of wholesalers and retailers.

* Marketing was singled out as the most important problem facing the farmers. Some officials think that our traditional markets in the Gulf are written off due to either fierce competition or because some governments are obsessed with producing vegetables at any cost. Other marketing specialists disagree. The vast European markets were cited as a

potential market for our products, especially when Alia, The Royal Jordanian Airline has the available capacity at a very low rate of 125 fils per kilogramme.

The marketing crisis revealed the overproduction of certain items at the expense of others, which emphasised the importance of a studied pattern of the land use.

* Finally, the representative of the Jordan Valley farmers (Abu Azzam), who attended the seminar, was astonished to discover that government officials in the capital do know about the problems suffered by the farmers. Previously, he was under the impression that they don't know, and that if only they knew, the problems will be dealt with and solved swiftly. By attending the deliberations at the seminar, he realised, to his surprise, that they know about these problems as much as he did or even more, and yet they are helpless, and either unable or unwilling to do something about these problems!



Turkey embarks on privatisation plan

By Paul Bolding
Reuter

ANKARA — Just a year after it took office, the Turkish government of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is about to embark on the central part of a plan to restructure the economy by privatising the huge industrial public sector.

One of Turkey's biggest retail banks began selling revenue shares Monday in Istanbul's Bosphorus Toll Bridge that links Europe and Asia.

The shares are the first step in a three-part scheme that also includes the sale of equity in state economic enterprises (sees) — the vast public sector that represents a quarter of all industry — and the leasing of state-owned factories and farms to generate revenue.

The bank involved in this first step, Turkiye Is Bankasi, has guaranteed the toll bridge issue for the government, but Vahit Erdem, who is supervising the programme for Mr. Ozal, told Reuters he expected it to sell out in a week.

The returns in the first year of 43 per cent for three-year and 39 per cent for five-year bonds have an added selling point: Muslim Turks were never before able to place their money so well and still follow Islamic teaching by shunning interest.

Shareholders will receive their income from a slice of the revenue at the Bridge Tolls, which Mr. Erdem estimated would total 12 billion lira (\$29 million) in 1985. It is a modest start — 10 billion lira (\$24 million) worth of certificates — to what will be a major programme if the government sees it through.

Mr. Erdem said in an interview he expected the next such scheme to be the Keban hydroelectric dam in eastern Turkey, which has earnings several times that of the bridge.

The only state enterprise that the government has formally decided to sell off is Turkish Airlines, and Mr. Erdem said consultants would be looking at how to carry this out.

Turkey has several hundred sees, although only 40 major ones. Daring from the 1920s, they range from food and industrial manufacturing, through energy to transport and banking.

They had a total of 560,000 employees in 1982 and their contribution to the gross national product was 11 per cent.

Stock in the antiquated and unimaginative state firms is hardly likely to be attractive and Mr. Erdem said the airline would probably be restructured and rationalised before it goes up for sale, putting the sell-off back by up to two years.

As a group, the sees make a profit. Turkish Airlines ran up a 4.3-billion-lira (\$10-million) surplus last year, but faces a hefty bill in the near future in generous retirement compensation payments for its staff.

The government plans to split it into two airlines which will compete against each other and hopes this will produce a long-awaited improvement in service.

Money for that restructuring will come from a new housing and public participation fund, of which Mr. Erdem is chief administrator. This fund — kept at the Central Bank — will be fed by income from schemes such as the bridge and will have money to spend on rationalising firms before they are sold off and even to create new ones purely to privatise them later.

It will also be fed by income from the sale or leasing of government plant. Mr. Erdem said Turkish firms were already contacting him with offers, including some for meat plants owned by the state which were now running under capacity.

But the sale of equity is the cornerstone of the scheme and government planners hope that putting shares in the hands of employees will have an important side-effect in improving their interest in their companies and therefore their work-rate.

One of Mr. Ozal's personal aides, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters workers would be given the shares without any choice and receive tax benefits to pay for them.

"They are not conscientious enough to know the value of shares, the value of holding equity in their hands, so it's going to be across the board ... it's a brute force method."

Costs would be recouped later in personal and corporation taxes once workers' interest had made the firms profitable, the aide said. He laid stress on this side of the plan, saying that the firms would be unattractive to commercial investors. Since then a trade delegation from the United Arab Emirates has visited Turkey with a shopping list that included see shares.

Whoever gets the shares, the programme appears set to open up a genuine capital market in Turkey for the first time.

The first stock exchange, due to open in Istanbul shortly, will have little to do at first because most of the shares in Turkey's major industrial holding companies are family held, but officials hope it will have plenty of business later.

Until 1980, Mr. Erdem said, Turks saved only by buying gold or land because bank interest rates were unattractive.

Israel seeks to double U.S. aid

By Lucia Moust

BESET by soaring inflation, falling revenues, and rising unemployment, Israel is expected to reach out for a special emergency stipend this year and a major increase in aid next year from its chief ally and financial supporter — the United States.

And there are few signs that the Israeli government will have any trouble getting the additional help it seeks from a new Congress.

The Reagan administration is on record as saying any increase would have to be carefully considered in the context of Israel's internal plans for economic reform. And it does want assurances that more U.S. aid would find constructive use and not simply perpetuate the current crisis.

"By pouring in huge amounts you can make reform even more difficult," one administration official notes.

But the administration has been weighing the idea of a 50 per cent increase in general U.S. foreign aid, and Secretary of State George P. Shultz has described Washington's commitment to Israel's security and well-being as "ironclad."

Although losing a key ally in the recent election defeat of Rep. Clarence Long (D) of Maryland, chairman of the House subcommittee responsible for foreign aid, pro-Israel political groups in Washington insist the new Congress gives them no cause for concern.

"It looks as much or even more pro-Israel than the last one," says one Israeli supporter, who asked not to be identified. "I think it's too early to say what Congress will do, but it's certainly a different ball game. (Representative) Long was an absolute rubber stamp (for Israeli aid requests)," says David Sadd, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA). His organisation is currently spearheading a national paid advertising campaign in the news media, aimed at stimulating more public awareness and debate about the extent of U.S. aid to Israel.

Although Mr. Saad says that 20 out of 21 New York radio stations refused to run the NAAA message, he says he sees a rise in the amount of press commentary on aid to Israel during the last two months — Christian Science Monitor.

Falling revenues force Pakistan to slash five year plan

By Tom Hemeghan
Reuter

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has scrapped an ambitious five-year economic development plan after only 15 months and ordered a trimmer version to help cope with lower harvests, falling exports and declining remittances from abroad.

The country's sixth five-year plan, launched with great fanfare in mid-1983 by Planning Minister Mahbub-ul-Haq, was aimed at making Pakistan a big food exporter and expanding its domestic energy base.

Its replacement, a three-year rolling plan about 10 to 15 per cent smaller, will drop two big energy projects and seek to stem falling exports of main crops like cotton, wheat and rice.

The cutback comes at an embarrassing time for the military government, which has promised to hold Pakistan's first elections in over seven years by next March. Newspapers ridiculed the plan's talk of rapid development in a country with a per capita income of \$380 a year.

"The fact is that not much can be done by way of rapid development in a country which spent 73.4 per cent of its revenue budget on defence and debt servicing," the Muslim in Islamabad said editorially.

It added: "From the leftover of 26 per cent, an increasing share is being claimed to meet the cost of police, intelligence and other heightened security measures." The plan, foreseeing annual growth of 6.5 per cent, set an expenditure target of 495 billion rupees (\$24 billion), about twice the amount spent in the previous five years.

But it soon stumbled over a sharp fall in revenues, especially remittances from Pakistanis abroad which make up just over half of Islamabad's foreign exchange earnings, and growth stopped at 4.6 per cent.

Remittances, which rose by

29.7 per cent in the last year of the 1978-1983 plan to \$3 billion, slumped by three per cent to 2.8 billion in the 1983-1984 fiscal year ending last June 30. They were targeted to rise by 10 per cent.

From July to September, the first quarter of the 1984-1985 fiscal year, they fell by a further eight per cent.

A 40 per cent drop in the 1983-1984 cotton harvest, the main export item, had a dramatic effect on exports, which rose only four per cent in the last fiscal year instead of the planned eight per cent.

Exports have fallen by 20 per cent in the first quarter of this fiscal year compared to the same 1983-1984 period. Imports rose by 11 per cent last year over 1982-1983 and jumped by another 21 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

The economic setbacks, along with the dollar's surge, have caused a 51 per cent depreciation of the rupee since its link with the U.S. unit was ended in January 1982 to boost exports.

Announcing the cuts in the plan last week, Mr. Haq said public sector spending would be trimmed the most, from 200 billion rupees (\$13.8 billion) to around 185 billion rupees (\$12.7 billion). Foremost among lost projects will be two major ones in the energy sector, a refinery and a cracking plant.

While foreign economic analysts here said bad farming weather and the rise in the dollar were factors no planner could have foreseen, they faulted the government for not carrying out bold tax and price reforms the plan called for as part of its general mobilisation of resources.

They also said the fall in remittances from overseas, popularly attributed to a slump in the Gulf where about two million Pakistani workers, was due to a great extent to a reluctance by richer Pakistani businessmen elsewhere to invest in their native country.

Uruguay president faces delicate task

By Kevin Noblet
Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO — President elect Julio Sanguinetti will have to walk a fine line between the interests of a military used to power and an opposition unaccustomed to making concessions when he takes office March 1.

Army chief Gen. Hugo Medina told reporters after a courtesy call to Mr. Sanguinetti on Monday night that the military, after ruling the country for 11 years, is committed to giving up power.

"The Armed Forces know very well their function within an organised society, because they have lived it," he said. "I have been an officer under constitutional regimes, not just de facto governments and I can assure you the national army knows very well its mission and its place within the affairs of the country."

However, high-ranking officers say they expect a higher degree of respect from Mr. Sanguinetti, who was elected Sunday, than they had before they seized power in 1973. "It isn't as simple as the troops marching back to the barracks," one highly placed army officer

said Tuesday, speaking on condition he not be identified. "The problem is that before (the coup) the politicians did not listen to us. They (now) have to listen to us. They have to respect us."

In a communique issued Tuesday, the National Party, which lost to Mr. Sanguinetti's Colorado Party, said the new president also would have to reckon with the opposition.

The communique spoke of a "progressive majority" a reference to the combined vote totals of the National Party and the leftist coalition known as the Broad Front — which "must be taken into account by the Colorado Party to achieve its lofty goal of a government of national unity."

The elections — the first since 1971 — were held under an accord reached between the Armed Forces and some of the political groups. It calls for the civilian government to assume power March 1, with a National Security Council to serve as a channel for military concerns.

Politicians and military officials say the new council will serve only an advisory role, and will not inhibit the president's decision-

making powers.

Mr. Sanguinetti and his Colorado Party won 38.6 per cent of the vote, compared with 32.8 per cent for the National Party and 20.4 per cent for the Broad Front.

Mr. Sanguinetti, a 48-year-old lawyer and political journalist, was the most politically moderate of the leading candidates.

"Right now what we are feeling is intense relief," the army officer said of Mr. Sanguinetti's victory. "We are very pleased."

Mr. Sanguinetti faces "the impossibility of governing without a parliamentary majority," the National Party communique said. The makeup of the congress elected Sunday closely follows the percentages in the presidential race.

The Broad Front has made no statements about any possible alliance.

The National Party had not participated in the election accord, insisting that party leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate first be freed from a military jail. A fierce critic of military rule, Mr. Ferreira was arrested on political charges June 16 when he returned from 11 years in self-exile.

Alberto Zumaran was chosen to

All the president's men in Africa

There are more French troops in Africa than ever in the past 25 years. Paul Webster reports from Paris

Paul Webster

IN THE political row over Libya's slow withdrawal from Chad, a more significant long-term defence issue was overlooked. France was able to threaten to bring back its own army within a matter of hours, a message that will not be missed in many African capitals.

The 14-month Chad operation was the first definite proof that the new Force d'Action Rapide (FAR) — intended mainly for intervention in Black Africa — has the necessary bases, logistical flexibility, aircraft, and manpower to be considered an African army.

By next year, the FAR will have five divisions permanently at its disposal, more than 47,000 men equipped with the most modern weapons that one of the world's most successful armaments industry can turn out. While most of the men will remain in France, based near Toulouse, some will be permanently posted to Africa ready to intervene when called.

Several former French colonies, notably Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Gabon, which already have French bases, have openly encouraged the French presence and helped with staging facilities. Others, like Zaire (the former Belgian colony) tend to take the idea of French assistance in the case of insurrection almost for granted. Another country, the Central African Republic, has mortgaged its independence to ensure that France underwrites its budget largely through an impressive military presence.

Cameroun is also tempted by a French base and most former French colonies have French instructors in their armies and have bilateral defence agreements that could be invoked in the case of outside threat.

The most important French mil-

itary presence in Africa is, of course, Djibouti on the East coast where about 5,000 soldiers, airmen, and sailors control the entrance to the Red Sea and protect a slip of nominally independent land claimed by both Somalia and Ethiopia. Djibouti, however, is a strategic problem more closely associated with the Middle East and Indian Ocean than with Africa itself.

The Force d'Action Rapide, under the control of a single general, has a different role from the army in Djibouti. It is to maintain influence in traditional French areas while at the same time developing an all-purpose rapid strike capacity that could be as readily used alongside the NATO front line in Europe as in the Middle East. The Force was born out of former President Giscard's concern that France would be overtaken as a political force in black Africa by the Soviet Union working with the aid of Libya and Cuba. It is being reinforced by the Socialists more in the belief that France must show a strong hand or find its former colonies falling to diplomatic approaches from the United States.

The 14-month Chad operation was the logical result of a series of military initiatives dating back more than 20 years and arising largely out of the close sympathy between General de Gaulle and most senior African leaders. But under Presidents de Gaulle and Pompidou it was usually enough to provide instructors or at best a battalion of conscripts to show countries like Senegal or the Ivory Coast that they were still politically valuable to France. Even permanent French garrisons like those in Senegal tended to be more concerned with wider strategy like the watch on the Atlantic than with Africa itself.

Under President Giscard, matters changed rapidly with intervention by crack professional units to prevent governments from being overthrown. French paratroopers and Jaguar fighter bombers went into action in Mauritania to contain the Polisario front and protect French mineral areas. In Zaire, paratroopers were dropped to defeat Katangese rebel gendarmes and save white mineworkers.

In Chad, about 2,000 French troops were insufficient to prevent the fall of a Christian run government but they played an important peacekeeping role in the early rivalry between Mr. Hissen Habre and Mr. Goukouni Ndey. Then the whole credibility of French strategy was put into question when paratroopers were flown secretly to Bangui to depose Emperor Bokassa of Central Africa who had offended President Giscard. From then on, the embryonic FAR, which was supposed to be limited to one paratroop division, looked more like the President's private army.

President Mitterrand, once overseas Territories Minister in the Fourth Republic and a friend of many African leaders, inherited an uncomfortable situation for a Socialist when elected in 1981. He was under pressure from many African leaders to maintain a French intervention force mainly because they feared Colonel Qadhafi and his project to establish an Islamic empire right across Africa. But his own Socialist Party was worried by accusations of neo-colonialism and pressed him to drop the idea of military aid and replace it by humanitarian and economic aid.

By then it was impossible to disband the FAR without offending the military as it was no longer the ad hoc unit that had to borrow parachutes from the Zaire army to land in Shaba province or borrow American planes to fly in its equipment. It had not only procured its own long-range transport planes and its base near the Mediterranean but had priority in advanced weapons' issue. Almost overnight, the paratroop division with light armoured support which Mr. Giscard had envisaged, became a small army of its own. No other European country has anything equivalent, particularly Britain with its brigade-size mobile force.

Its expansion is largely the work of the Socialist Defence Minister, Mr. Charles Hernu, a former resistance fighter, infantryman, and now a reserve officer. He has been solely responsible for defence policy in the Socialist Party for more than 15 years and is one of Mr. Mitterrand's most trusted friends.

There has never been a more professional Defence Minister since the war and the army has never been so flattered by government attention since the days it thought it was winning in Algeria. With such a powerful ally, the FAR now has independent command of three crack units — paratroopers, Marines, and Chasseurs Alpins. In addition to those three divisions, it is building up its own armoured division including heavy tanks. And next year it will inaugurate the world's first all-helicopter attack division intended to take on tanks.

As the marines and paratroopers set off for Chad with their own armoured units last year, there could be no doubt that they were spoilt for choice of weapons. Some, like throwaway anti-tank weapons, were in experimental stage while others, including electronic listening equipment and anti-aircraft missile batteries, were being battle tested for the first time.

Ever since the end of the Algerian war, Africa has been as much a training ground for the French Army as Northern Ireland for the British and it was no secret



Youngster with new-found French "friends" in N'Djamena, Chad: looking like the president's private army.

that some French generals hoped it would be as valuable as Afghanistan to the Russians. One of the results of the Chad "war", during which only one Frenchman was killed in action, was that it ensured that there are more French troops in Africa than for more than 25 years.

Even discounting Djibouti, there appear to be at least 7,000 in other countries although the number is secret as the army has become increasingly mistrustful of prying journalists. Few of the 3,200 French troops in Chad were ever reported as returning to France after the withdrawal. Officially, about 2,000 are in Central Africa which adjoins Chad and several hundred others are in Gabon.

Many stayed behind as instructors in N'Djamena, keeping supply and transport lanes open for an eventual return.

In addition to these troops, there are three permanent garrisons of marines based in Senegal, Gabon, and the Ivory Coast. In addition there are squadrons of

Jaguar fighter bombers, Mirage fighters, and Transall transport planes. Several hundred support troops and instructors make a sizeable army in itself as they help to ferry the FAR units in and out as they are replaced from their camps around Toulouse.

All the French support bases that provide stopovers for supply flights have been modernised in the past three years, but the most significant change has been in the Central African Republic. An old World War II base at Bouar in western Central Africa has been reactivated and this has become the main turntable for French African operations. It is there, too, where the main listening post has been installed to keep in touch with regular reconnaissance flights flown out of Gabon by Breguet-Atlantic aircraft.

However much noise the politicians make about the Chad affair, the army is satisfied that it was able to put a credible force on the ground within a week of the first soldiers arriving in Chad in August last year and it has been able to

get them all out, with their equipment, in as fast a time. No invading force could have done more as the breakdown in the Libyan advance proved last year.

What might be called the "conscience clause" in Socialist involvement in Africa — a reluctance to use force instead of diplomacy — meant that the Chad confrontation never broke out into a hot war. Even when the paratroopers and marines were within 60 miles of the Libyan front lines and there was a brief aerial clash, Mr. Mitterrand held back an impatient army and put his faith in diplomacy.

But long drawn out diplomacy, particularly in relation to Qadhafi, was never the policy of right-wing governments which always resorted to force first and talk afterwards. A Right-wing leader like Mr. Giscard, who openly regretted not having sufficient manpower to support anti-Communist forces in Angola, would certainly not have restrained officers demanding a punitive strike against

Libya which right-wing MPs have been pressing for in parliament. And even though the long-term intention is to prepare a strike force that would be so flexible that it could fight alongside NATO in Europe, this is such an unlikely role in view of attachment to traditional Gaullist defence philosophy that Africa will remain the priority battle and training ground.

It looks increasingly likely that the Socialists will not survive the general elections and it will probably be a right-wing candidate who wins the presidency in 1986. Whoever takes over as both president and commander in chief of the Defence Forces will have a very interesting heritage — a totally professional force on permanent standby to intervene at short notice anywhere in the narrow sphere of French influence. Nothing like it has been seen in French military history since the foundation of the Foreign Legion in 1831 with the specific purpose of imposing French foreign policy on small nations — The Guardian.

An oasis between two civilisations

By R.W. Apple, Jr.

OF FEW places in the world would I dare to say that they would thrill any sane person, because I know people who hate London and Paris and even Florence, but I would say it about Petra. The world affords few travel experiences to rival the mile-long ride on horseback through the narrow defile called the Siq, the wall of rock rising 200 feet and more above your head, shutting out the sky, the sound of the horses' footfalls echoing about you, until suddenly, when it seems that the end will never come, you round a last corner and see beyond the mouth of the defile, glowing in the morning sun, the crisp classical facade of the grandiose Treasury, hewn from the living rock...

It is possible to visit Petra in a single day. Travel agencies in Amman send buses down the bleak Desert Highway early each morning — four hours each way, with less than two hours in Petra itself, which is not nearly enough. If you are going to take the trouble to travel as far as Jordan, taken the trouble to rent a car in Amman and devote at least two days to the trip. That way you can take the far more interesting King's Highway south, following in the steps of the Roman Emperor Trajan, visit Petra the next day, then head back



up the Desert Highway at nightfall. Even better, spend three days, and use the third for a visit to Wadi Rum, the remote desert valley, filled with surrealistic rock formations of every conceivable hue, that T.E. Lawrence celebrated in "Seven Pillars of Wisdom." — New York Times.

By Herbert H. Denton

NEW YORK — The cold tension brought on by the sight of uppercuts and quick punches in the raw legal combat of the libel trial Ariel Sharon vs. Time Inc. is broken only by odd moments of levity.

"This case is not a clean case," Judge Abraham D. Sofaer said from the bench. "There's going to be a lot of explosive and damaging material coming out on both sides."

Overflowing crowds have to clear two metal detectors in the federal courthouse in lower Manhattan to hear stories of massacre, war and intrigue in this Middle Eastern drama.

Sharon, the former Israeli minister of defence, is the principal figure in a cast that features lawyers from two of New York's powerhouse firms: Thomas D. Barr of Cravath, Swaine and Moore represents the multimillion dollar publishing empire, and Milton S. Gould of Shea and Gould represents Sharon.

"Wednesday is my regular theatre day," spectator Rebecca Rolland told a New York Times local columnist the day after the Nov. 13 opening of the trial. "and this is the best theatre in the city right now."

During recesses, Sharon partisans and adversaries, journalists, and schoolboys wearing yarmulkes huddle in knots to argue over which side won the last

round. But there are audiences beyond the courtroom — perhaps none more important to Sharon than his countrymen back home where he has been attempting a political comeback. It is telling that when Sharon, who testifies in fluent English, spoke briefly to reporters and cameramen outside the courthouse one day, his words were in Hebrew.

In opening arguments, Sharon's lawyer, Mr. Gould, said his client would show that Time was sloppy and reckless in publishing an article prominently mentioning Sharon. Mr. Gould said Time had taken a "lie" from one of its correspondents in Israel and turned it into a "worse lie" during editing and rewriting in New York.

Although Judge Sofaer ruled before the trial that there was no basis for presenting evidence on Sharon's charge that Time has exhibited a longstanding anti-Israeli bias and anti-Semitism, Sharon and his lawyer have been admonished by the judge for attempting to bring it into the trial by the back door.

Time has charged that Sharon cannot prove the falsity of the magazine article and that he cannot claim he was defamed by it because his "reputation has long been that of a bloodthirsty, insubordinate militarist."

A few days before he left Israel to come here for the trial, Sharon said on Radio Israel: "...The Jewish people always knew to stand

up to acts of this kind, and this time as well this act will not hinder me to stand up against one of the centres of anti-Semitism existing these days in the world. Time magazine, in a battle that is, according to my opinion, not a personal battle but a battle of the Jewish people and the state of Israel."

Perhaps Israel's most controversial public figure, Sharon, 56, has been hailed by his troops as "Arik" (his nickname). King of the Jews, and is revered by many Israelis who admire his blunt style and daring successes on the battlefield. He is vilified by others as "Sharon, murderer." He was the architect of Israel's controversial settlements policy on the occupied West Bank and of its 1982 invasion of Lebanon, a war that drags on.

The invasion split Israel into bitter divisions that were sharpest in September 1982, the period of focus in the trial, when Israel's Lebanese right-wing militia allies massacred hundreds of Palestinians in two west Beirut refugee camps surrounded by Israeli soldiers. The killings occurred days after a multinational force of U.S. Marines and French and Italian soldiers that had aided in the evacuation of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had left Lebanon.

In Israel, a three-member commission, informally referred to as the Kahan Commission be-

cause its chairman was Yitzhak Kahan, former chief justice of the Israel Supreme Court, was established in response to the outcry. It concluded that Sharon bore "indirect responsibility" for the atrocities.

The legal case here has a much narrower focus than the Kahan Commission's inquiry, but Sharon has testified that he still disagrees with the commission's verdict which cost him his post as defence minister. He continues to argue that he bears no blame for the massacres. Sharon has had other falls from grace that were followed by triumphal comebacks.

He has announced that he will challenge Yitzhak Shamir, currently foreign minister, for leadership of the Likud bloc, which is sharing power with the opposing Labour Alignment in the fragile national unity government that took office in September.

Under the terms of the accord, the post of prime minister, now held by Labour's Shimon Peres, will go to the Likud bloc after the government's first 25 months, if it survives that long. If successful here and later in his bid for leadership of the Likud, Sharon would be well positioned to become prime minister.

But the more immediate question is how the courtroom drama is being seen by the 10 New Yorkers in the jury box. The judge is Jewish, and so are some attorneys on both legal teams, but lawyers

confirm there are no identifiable Jews on the panel, which was drawn from a citizenry in metropolitan New York with about two million Jews — about two-thirds the number living in Israel.

According to Mr. Gould, Sharon's lawyer: "Some of the Jewish people called didn't want to serve. One of the men called said he didn't feel that he could be unbiased."

At issue in this case is a single paragraph in the cover article of Time's Fe. 21, 1983, edition, which is entitled "The Verdict is Guilty: An Israeli Commission Apportions Blame for the Beirut Massacre."

The paragraph alleges that Time had learned that a secret appendix of the Kahan Commission report contained details about Sharon's visit to the family of slain Lebanese Christian Falangist leader Bashir Gemayel the day before Sharon allowed the Falangists into the refugee camps, during which Sharon "... reportedly discussed with the Gemayels the need for the Falangists to take revenge for the assassination of Bashir..."

Sharon acknowledges paying a condolence call on the Gemayels. But he insists no such conversation took place or is reported in the appendix. He has accused Time of "blood libel" and is seeking \$50 million in damages.

The judge has ruled that a 1970 international agreement gives

Sharon the right to sue in American courts. Sharon has also brought the same libel suit in Israel, but it is backed up in the overloaded courts there.

Time argues that Sharon's interpretation of the controversial paragraph distorts its meaning, but Time's efforts to subpoena the secret appendix have been blocked by the Israeli government on the grounds of national security. The Israeli government has also forbidden generals and other high-ranking officers involved in Israel's invasion into Lebanon to testify. Time got permission from the Israeli government for some lower-ranking officers to testify.

The government of Israel is not a party to the lawsuit, but the previous Shamir-led cabinet authorised Sharon to go on a lecture tour of the United States to raise funds to help defray his legal costs. The current national unity government is paying travel and living expenses for Sharon and his wife under the theory that while in New York, Sharon, as minister of industry and commerce, is supposedly talking to investors about opportunities in Israel.

The trial is getting front-page coverage in the Israeli press, but Washington Post correspondent Edward Walsh in Jerusalem reports it is of far less interest there than the economy and the talks to extricate Israeli soldiers from Lebanon — The Washington Post.

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United squanders 2-0 lead, misses opportunity to go top

LONDON (R) — First division favourites Manchester United squandered a gilt-edged opportunity to go top of the league for the first time this season when Nottingham Forest fought back from 2-0 down at half-time to beat them 3-2 Saturday.

With league leaders Everton almost literally fighting out a goalless draw at troubled London side Queen's Park Rangers, where both sides had a player sent off 10 minutes before half-time, victory would have carried United clear at the top.

And United had one hand on the first division's summit when goals from Scottish international Gordon Strachan put them 2-0 up at the interval.

But goals from Steve Hodge and Gary Mills pulled the former European Champions level 17 minutes from time before Dutchman Johnny Metgod curled a delightful last minute free kick around beyond the reach of goalkeeper Gary Bailey to secure Forest's dramatic win.

United dropped to third place in the table as Tottenham, 3-1 winners over Newcastle, leaped into second, one point behind Everton, who lead with 34 points from 18 games.

Everton's increasing insecurity as leaders was not helped when

their match on Rangers' artificial pitch developed into an all-out brawl after 35 minutes.

Everton's Scottish international striker Andy Gray and Rangers' Simon Stainrod clashed initially and another 12 players squared up to each other in the centre circle as tempers flared.

Referee John Deakin struggled to restore calm and then dismissed Stainrod and Everton's blood-splattered fullback Pat Van den Hauwe.

The trouble will do little to ease the problems at Rangers, who sacked manager Alan Mullery in midweek and came close to appointing former England boss Don Revie as his successor.

But fifth-placed Southampton put their off-the-pitch troubles behind them when they beat Arsenal 1-0, the 'Saints' 14th league match without defeat and their fourth without conceding a goal.

Welsh striker Alan Curtis hit the 25-metre winner a minute before half-time after David Puckett had struck the bar.

The result keeps Southampton in fifth place, one point behind United and Arsenal, who are level on 32 points.

Tottenham, bundled out of the League Cup by Sunderland in midweek, looked to be heading towards another home defeat Saturday when striker Chris Waddle put Newcastle 1-0 up two minutes into the second half with his 10th goal of the season.

But a 61st-minute penalty by England defender Graham Roberts hauled Spurs level and two goals from Mark Falco kept the London side on the trail of Everton.

West Bromwich eased into championship contention with a 2-1 home win over Watford to go sixth, three points behind Southampton.

Champions Liverpool, who meet Argentina's Independiente in the World Club Championship in Tokyo Sunday, did not play and slipped to ninth in the table.

There was more misery for Stoke City, who crashed 2-0 at home to fellow-strugglers Ipswich to go nine points adrift of Coventry at the bottom of the table, while Leicester ended their barren away run with a 4-0 win at Sunderland — their first away victory for nearly a year.

Zamalek beats Stars, wins Champions Cup

LAGOS (R) — Zamalek of Egypt won Africa's most coveted soccer honour, the Champions Cup, here Saturday, blocking HCC Shooting Stars' hopes of becoming the first Nigerian side to lift the trophy.

Zamalek brought a 2-0 advantage to Lagos for the return leg of the final, a lead Shooting Stars were unable to dent, and finished the match 3-0 up on aggregate after Friday Christopher suffered the agony of putting the ball into his own net.

Zamalek's Ghanaian exile Emmanuel Quarshie, who had caught keeper Raymond King out of position, was intercepted by Christopher as he made for the Shooting Star goal in the 56th minute and the shot ricocheted off the unfortunate Nigerian's head.

Shooting Stars piled on early pressure, but a wealth of chances went begging, and even when veteran playmaker Segun Odegbami seemed to have pulled one back in the 42nd minute, the referee changed his mind and disallowed the goal.

And if that was not enough, Shooting Stars were further frustrated in the 63rd when Zamalek's impressive looking keeper Abdul Al Maamour scrambled a

retaken penalty by Wakiu Oye-nuga into touch.

By then, Shooting Stars' supporters, usually among the most fanatical in all Nigeria, were probably wishing they had not bothered to travel from the team's home base in Ibadan, 100 kilometres to the north of Lagos.

They joined a handful of Egyptian fans and began booing Shooting Stars as the match drifted into the final, lacklustre phase and may of the capacity 80,000 crowd began leaving the stadium.

Shooting Stars simply seemed unable to take advantage of any gaps in the Egyptians' defence. While Zamalek appeared content to sit on their first leg lead, the Nigerians consistently failed to convert chances into goals.

Muda Lawal, a veteran of Shooting Stars' last victory over Zamalek in 1976 on their way to taking the Cup Winners' Cup, looked dangerous at times, but was only able to produce shots that went wide or found a waiting defender.

Odegbami, who had been nursing a knee injury, was playing below form and eventually came off 10 minutes before the end having failed to pull his uncoordinated side together.

Saudi Arabia fights back to draw with Qatar

SINGAPORE (R) — Saudi Arabia boosted their hopes of a semifinal berth when they came from behind to draw 1-1 with Qatar 1-1 in a Group 'A' match in the Asian Cup Soccer Championships here Saturday.

After a goalless first half, Qatar, who dominated play in the early stages of the game, scored a minute after the interval when striker Aly Zaied shot past a confused Saudi defence into the net from close range. Zaied had almost scored in the 11th minute when his powerful 15-metre shot forced a spectacular save from Saudi goalkeeper Abdullah Al-Diaryy.

Saudi Arabia stormed back to earn their equaliser in the 61st minute through defender Mohammad Abdul Jawad, who curled a direct free kick over the defensive wall into the net.

Qatar's Brazilian coach Renaldo Carvalho confronted Mexican referee Antonio Ramirez and match officials after the final whistle, but relented after several riot police were called in.

Clash of continents in World Club Championship

TOKYO (R) — The World Soccer Club Championship promises an exciting clash of styles here on Sunday, with England's Liverpool determined to impose their hard-running game on Independiente, an Argentine team strong on individual skills.

Neither side is a newcomer to the single-match championship which is designed to find the world's best club team, a title more highly valued in South America than in Europe.

But Libertadores Cup Winners Independiente, confident of repeating their 1973 triumph over Juventus Turin, will not find Liverpool taking it easy as the European Cup holders are intent on avenging their 3-0 defeat by Flamengo of Brazil in 1981.

Liverpool, who have dominated English soccer for the past decade, have developed a blend of talent and teamwork which has brought home the European Cup four times and the English first division title seven times in the past nine years.

But the departure of Scottish midfielder Graeme Souness for Italy has left a hole which even the goal-scoring genius of Ian Rush and all-round skills of Kenny Dal-

glish have been unable to fill.

Independiente, who went into temporary decline after a golden spell in the mid-1970s, have re-emerged as a potent force in South American soccer with a side packed with virtuosity.

Ricardo Bochini, at 31 Liverpool's most dangerous opponent, has marvellous ball control and forms a devastating striking partnership with Jorge Buruchaga, only 22 but already capped 23 times, and Claudio Marangoni, who knows Liverpool's style from his days with English first division side Sunderland.

The hard, bumpy Tokyo pitch, venue of the match for the past five years, should suit Independiente's style better than Liverpool's and much will depend on whether the English side's close marking can throw the Argentines out of their stride.

But Liverpool, after a poor start to the season, are moving steadily towards peak form.

They rose to sixth place in the first division earlier this week with a 3-1 win over Coventry which included two goals from Souness' replacement John Wark, who has now notched five goals in four games.

Independiente, 10th in their league, have a poor defensive record but, unlike Liverpool, have often fielded reserves for league games while their best players concentrated on important matches in the Libertadores Cup.

Both teams practised in north Tokyo Friday and Independiente coach Jose Omar Pastoriza said his players were all fit and raring to go. "We are confident of winning," he added.

Liverpool manager Joe Fagan said his side has come to Tokyo with a much better mental approach than when they lost in 1981.

Captain Phil Neal said: "It's never been Liverpool's policy to worry too much about the opposition. We feel we are capable on the day of beating the best side and we hope for that on Sunday."

But history does not favour the Liverpoolians. British clubs have represented Europe five times in this championship and lost every time, including three defeats in Tokyo.

The small but growing band of Japanese soccer enthusiasts have guaranteed the 62,000 seat stadium will be packed and the match will be watched on television in 60 countries.

FIFA to sponsor 1st women's World Cup

TOKYO (AP) — FIFA, the International Football Federation, will sponsor the first women's World Cup, to be held in an Asian country in 1987, FIFA President Joao Havelange said Saturday.

Speaking at a news conference in Tokyo, Havelange also said the Zurich-based FIFA decided to hold the first World Junior Championships for the under-16 age group in Peking, July 31-Aug. 11 next year.

Havelange arrived in Tokyo Saturday to attend Sunday's 5th Toyota European-South American Cup, the showdown between the regional club champions.

This year, Liverpool (F.C.) of Britain, winners of the European Cup of Champions, is to meet Independiente C.A. of Buenos Aires, champions of the Libertadores of America Cup.

South American teams have won the Toyota Cup ever since it

was changed from a two-game, home-and-away series to a one-game contest in Tokyo.

Havelange said FIFA "respected the sides" in the decision over the women's World Cup.

In the under-16 event in Peking, teams from 16 nations are to compete for the championship. Havelange said this tournament and the FIFA's recent decision to limit the Olympic soccer event to players under 23 years of age completes the structure of FIFA's plan for global soccer.

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Qatar's Al Hajri wins M.E. Rally Championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saeed Al Hajri of Qatar, driving a Rothmans-Porsche turbo-charged rally car, won the Middle East Rally Championship 1984, as the sixth and final leg of the championship drew to a close in Dubai late Friday night.

Close behind Hajri was Mohammad Ibn Sulayman of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in his Toyota Celica, followed by Mohammad Sweidan, also of the UAE.

in a Range Rover. Abdullah Lamki of the Sultanate of Oman, behind the wheel of a Nissan RS 240, was placed fourth.

George Haddad of Jordan was placed fifth in a Toyota Celica. Forty-seven cars took part in the Dubai event and 21 reached the finishing line after manoeuvring through 1,400 kilometres which included a number of tough special stages.

Kasparov produces exciting escape

MOSCOW (R) — Challenger Garry Kasparov avoided a sixth and final defeat in the World Chess Championship with a display of resourceful aggression against champion Anatoly Karpov in the 31st game of their marathon Friday night.

Excitement in Moscow's Trade Union House was high throughout the five-hour session as Karpov neared the victory that would clinch his title in overwhelming style. Kasparov has yet to take a

single game.

After an unusual opening manoeuvre from the challenger, Karpov produced quick pressure against black's central pawns and Kasparov was forced to sacrifice one to create complications.

Grandmaster observers interpreted all signs as auguring a win for the champion, from technical factors such as the pawn advantage to the fact that Karpov had broken superstition and worn a new suit.

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Late starter thwarts Swiss hopes

DAVOS, Switzerland (R) — Trudi Haecher of West Germany rose from obscurity to thwart Swiss Maria Walliser's victory bid with an electrifying run from 54th start position to win a women's World Ski Cup super-giant slalom race here Saturday.

Walliser, the World Cup downhill champion and Olympic silver medalist, had beaten Maria Kiehl of West Germany by a mere 100th of a second for an apparent victory and the media were getting ready to interview her as the winner when Haecher began.

As the West German scorched down to set the best halfway time of 49.27 seconds, a hush settled over the mountain and she went on to clock one minute 50.33 for victory by the decisive margin of 1.81 seconds.

It was Haecher's first World Cup win after a previous best fifth place in a combination event three years ago. Injury and some poor results left her relegated to her country's B team.

Overcome with emotion and radiantly happy, Haecher said: "The course was quite steep at the top, but I let myself go on the flats and felt halfway down I could be in the first ten."

"My win was a tremendous boost for our team. I have been doing a lot of hard work with extra training in the Super-G recently and everything went super in the race," she said.

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Turkish report forecasts 38-40% inflation in 1985

ISTANBUL (R) — Inflation in Turkey will be between 38 and 40 per cent in 1985, the influential Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (Tusiad) predicted in a report published Saturday.

The report, a macroeconomic analysis of the Turkish economy between 1965-83, also included estimated data for 1984 and 1985 based on findings of the research.

According to the report, inflation, now running at over 50 per cent annually, will be 45 per cent at the end of 1984.

Tusiad's forecast of up to 40 per cent inflation in 1985 conflicts with the government's official goal of bringing price rises down to 25 per cent.

Exports were expected by Tusiad to reach \$7.4 billion this year and \$9.5 billion in 1985. In the first nine months of 1984 exports totalled just over \$5 billion.

The economic growth rate, officially predicted to be 5.6 per cent for 1984, was expected by Tusiad to be between five and 5.2 per cent.

South Asian states form civil aviation association

KARACHI (R) — South Asian countries have formed an aviation association to eliminate uneconomic competition and to safeguard their airlines' interest, a Pakistani civil aviation authority's spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman declined to elaborate on how "uneconomic competition" would be eliminated.

The South Asia Aviation Association was formed at the concluding session here Thursday of the first South Asian regional cooperation conference on aviation.

The conference was attended by Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, he added.

The conference decided to promote and develop safe, efficient and economic air transport system to ensure orderly growth of civil aviation, the spokesman said.

Mr. Mohammad Waheed, director general of civil aviation authority of Maldives, told reporters Thursday night his country would start its own airline from Dec. 15, 1984.

Ottawa unveils new rules to lure foreign investment

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's Progressive Conservative government Friday unveiled sweeping changes in the country's foreign investment rules in a bid to lure outside business.

Industry Minister Sinclair Stevens said the Conservatives will scrap Canada's Foreign Investment Review Agency, which many would-be investors from the United States and Western Europe saw as too stringent.

Now virtually all foreign business investment will be exempt from review by the government. A new agency, Investment Canada, will review deals of companies with assets of more than \$4.5 million.

"When we say we want to dismantle needless barriers to enterprise in this country, we mean it," Mr. Stevens said.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was highly critical of the old agency, claiming that its excessive bureaucratic rules scared away investors. Mr. Mulroney, keen to create a new investment climate, will carry his message to Wall Street when he speaks to the Economic Club of New York on Monday.

Statoil opts to postpone fixing December oil price

OSLO (R) — Norway's state-owned oil company Statoil said Friday it would not announce the price of its North Sea crude for December until later this month.

A spokesman told Reuters that uncertain oil markets combined with a British plan to alter its crude oil pricing formula had forced Statoil to defer an announcement.

Statoil, which upset world markets in October by dropping its price by more than a dollar, has indicated it does not want to be known as an oil price leader and prefers to follow Britain.

The spokesman said Statoil's contract customers had agreed to continue lifting its oil on the understanding that the price for December would be market-related.

"To act now would not be beneficial to anyone," he added.

The spokesman said Statoil would probably announce its price towards the end of December, after the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) holds a scheduled ministerial meeting in Geneva on Dec. 19.

Oslo oil traders said Statoil would be hoping the spot market continues its strengthening trend so that it could deflect pressure for a sizeable price cut from its customers.

Spot market prices are still well below the British official price of \$28.65 a barrel and Statoil is charging 30 cents a barrel more for its comparable Ekofisk crude.

Japan sees unlimited opportunities in India

NEW DELHI (R) — India offers unlimited potential for increased investment and trade with Japan, the leader of the highest-level Japanese trade delegation ever to come here said Friday.

Mr. Goro Koyama, vice president of the Tokyo chamber of commerce and industry, told a news conference the 50-member delegation was satisfied India had embarked on economic liberalisation aimed at attracting more investment.

"I lost came here 20 years ago and you were short of food. Now you have progressed so far you can open up," he said.

While Japan is a major Indian trading partner with trade this year worth \$2.5 billion, its investment here is only \$59 million, compared to \$10 billion in the six-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Koyama said Indian officials had promised him they would improve the country's erratic power supply, telephone and transport systems, to attract more Japanese investment.

"Up to now, Japanese businessmen have been timid about India. Now they will be reassured, because this delegation consists of very top decision makers," Mr. Takumi Hosaki, Japan's ambassador, told Reuters.

Mr. Hosaki said the infrastructure problems facing investors in some of ASEAN countries were worse than they were in India.

The delegation visited a car factory that is a joint venture between a government firm, Maruti, and the Japanese firm Suzuki.

Nearly every major Japanese car and motorcycle manufacturer has set up joint ventures here with Indian firms.

The delegation identified energy, telecommunications, electronics and auto ancillaries as the most important areas for future collaborations.

Mr. N.K. Singh, India's economic minister in the Tokyo embassy, said Japanese business faced increasing restrictions in U.S. and the European Community and had almost saturated South East Asia.

"It needs somewhere new to grow. Significant policy changes in India in the last three years have led to a new perception about this country," he said.

Mr. Saburo Aoki, the deputy leader of the delegation and a councillor at Mitsui Company, said two-way trade could double by 1986 if India could export more to Japan and continued to open its doors to Japanese goods.

Godeaux to head BIS as Leutwiler bows out

ZURICH (R) — Mr. Fritz Leutwiler takes his leave of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) on Monday, having seen the bank through what many bankers say were the most trying three years of its 54-year history.

The handover to Belgian National Bank Governor Jean Godeaux is likely to dominate Monday's monthly meeting of central bankers at the BIS in Basle, now the issues that brought the bank into the headlines have been at least temporarily resolved.

Monetary sources said Mr. Leutwiler, who at 60 is also retiring as president of the Swiss National Bank, was a major force in the BIS's decision to act swiftly in 1982 as debt-laden Latin American and Eastern Bloc countries needed short-term aid.

The BIS, often dubbed the central bank of central bankers, acts as a clearing house for transactions between member nations. But in mid-1982, shortly after Mr. Leutwiler moved into its presidency, the BIS found itself offering one of the few ways to avert a major world banking crisis.

Hungary was the first country to come to BIS for help in 1982.

Major central banks working through BIS provided a \$210 million loan after Hungary found itself unable to raise funds from commercial banks in the wake of the declaration of martial law in Poland at the end of 1981.

By the time Mr. Leutwiler's first year in office ended, Hungary had already sought a second loan, and Yugoslavia, Mexico and Argentina had asked for central bank credits through the BIS as they became unable to service their foreign debt.

The BIS, sensing that a default by any of them might set off a chain reaction and imperil the security of the world banking system, responded favourably to these extraordinary requests.

But it tried to hold the borrowers to strict repayment terms, forcing them to seek longer-term solutions by rescheduling loans from commercial banks and working with the International Monetary Fund to restructure their economies.

The debt crisis came at the same time as a wave of corporate bankruptcies and commercial bank liquidity problems also gave central bankers cause for concern.

Even though these crises have receded, neither Mr. Leutwiler nor his BIS colleagues feel permanent solutions have been found.

Arab firm to study joint ventures

RIYADH (OPECNA) — The Arab Industrial Investment Company held its annual meeting here Saturday to finalise next year's budget and examine the setting up of a number of joint ventures in Arab countries. The projects include a smelting plant and plants for the production of cranes and steel pipelines. The company, established in Baghdad in 1978 with a paid-up capital of \$482.53 million, aims at setting up industrial, power and engineering projects in the Arab World with private sector participation.

Will Reagan cut defence spending?

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said Friday the defence department is not exempt from spending cuts in his drive to reduce massive U.S. budget deficits but no final decisions have been made.

"That's included," he told a press conference when asked if he was examining the Pentagon budget for possible cuts.

"We know that's (defence spending) important. We know its important, across-the-board, to see that everyone participate in trying to achieve this (spending) freeze," he said.

Mr. Reagan is seeking to cut the budget deficit for the 1986 financial year starting next Oct. 1 to about \$170 billion by holding overall spending on government programmes in 1986 to the same \$334 billion expected in 1985.

Mr. Reagan has already outlined \$34 billion in proposed non-defence spending cuts and is under pressure from legislators and some of his own advisers to trim at least \$8 billion from 1986 defence spending.

Budget Director David Stockman has suggested trimming military spending by \$58 billion over the next three years from the \$967 billion sought by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Mr. Weinberger, who returned to Washington Sunday from NATO meetings in Brussels, is strongly resisting Mr. Stockman's plan, even though it would still allow arms spending to rise by \$24 billion or more in each of the next three years.

Mr. Reagan said he would discuss arms spending with Mr. Weinberger next week.

"We'll discuss his defence budget to see what he can contribute," Mr. Reagan said.

But a number of key members of Congress have warned Mr. Reagan his spending cut package will fail unless the military also accepts lower spending levels.

Mr. Reagan said Friday that everything except the social security retirement programme is open for discussion in an effort to cut budget deficits from a projected \$210 billion in the current 1985 financial year to about \$100 billion in 1988.

If Mr. Reagan achieves his goals, government spending in 1986, including \$154 billion for interest payments on the government debt, will total about \$988 billion.

If he falls short, the U.S. government will spend more than a trillion dollars in that year.

Mr. Reagan Friday also repeated his strong opposition to tax increases as a way to reduce the deficit.

He said that issue was settled by his landslide reelection victory over Democrat Walter Mondale in November, which he said was a clear vote by the American people against the concept that higher taxes are the way to reduce the deficit.

During the campaign, Mr. Reagan said tax increases should be used only as a last resort. His Democratic rival said tax increases were inevitable.

"Not one bit," Mr. Reagan said when asked if his opposition to tax increases had softened.

He said the best way to cut the deficit was through economic growth and added that higher taxes tend to sap economic vitality.

Unemployment improves

Meanwhile, the U.S. unemployment rate fell to 7.2 per cent in November, reflecting labour market improvements that suggest the economy regained strength after several sluggish months, the Labour Department said Friday.

Reagan administration spokesman Mr. Larry Speakes welcomed the drop from 7.4 per cent in October as a sign that the economy is still expanding, which "should provide an early Christmas gift for many Americans."

Over the summer and early autumn, economic activity slowed from earlier in the year and there were only minor adjustments in the national jobless rate, which was 7.4 per cent in both September and October and 7.5 per cent in July and August.

Most analysts had not expected the employment picture to brighten as much as it did last month.

According to economist Donald Ratajczak of Georgia State University, the latest figures showed "the sluggishness is at least temporarily gone."

There was a rise of nearly 300,000 in the number of people in employment and a fall of about 275,000 in those out of work.

According to the report, the number of people in employment expanded to 105.9 million last month, with most of the growth in the retail trade and services industries.

Fayrolls at nonagricultural businesses, a key statistic, grew by 303,000 to 95.5 million last month.

However, the signals from the statistics released Friday were still mixed.

Employment in manufacturing was almost stagnant in November, repeating a pattern that began in July.

The number of jobs available in the manufacturing industries was still more than 600,000 below its July 1981 peak.

Manufacturing has recovered only about 70 per cent of the jobs lost during the 1981-82 recession.

West German parliament abolishes withholding tax

BONN (R) — The West German parliament, echoing a similar move by the United States to lure foreign investors, has approved a bill that frees foreigners from paying tax on the interest they earn from investing in German bonds.

The Bundestag (Upper House) approved the bill Friday without amendment, removing the 25 per cent tax charged to non-resident holders of German fixed-interest securities.

The law takes effect from the beginning of last August.

The Bundestag, West Germany's central bank, pressed Bonn for the change after the United States repealed a similar 30 per cent withholding tax last summer.

High U.S. interest rates, enhanced by Washington's abolition of the withholding tax, has kept the United States an attractive home for foreign investment funds.

This in turn has helped to maintain the dollar's robust strength on world currency markets against the German mark and other major currencies.

Tax reform bill produces new tensions in Rome

ROME (R) — New tensions have surfaced in Italy's coalition government over Finance Minister Bruno Visentini's refusal to soften a controversial tax reform bill, parliamentary sources said Friday.

The bill, aimed at curbing widespread tax evasion and raising an extra 12,000 billion lire (\$6.4 million) in taxes next year, has sparked strikes by small businessmen and artisans.

It cleared the senate on a series of confidence votes last week and is due to go before the chamber of deputies, parliament's lower house, next week but the five parties in the coalition still disagree on parts of it.

At the centre of the dispute is a measure introducing inductive assessments which empower officials to make an on-the-spot assessment of an individual's tax liability if they believe his tax declaration is incorrect.

Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats have said the system would be open to abuse and are seeking ways of ensuring it would be applied fairly to all taxpayers, the sources said.

Christian Democrats' Secretary Ciriaco De Mita told reporters his party wanted to ensure that taxpayers had the maximum guarantees so that the planned measures did not require arbitrators or cause new inequalities.

But Mr. Visentini said Thursday he stood firm on the need to introduce inductive assessment and was not prepared to alter his package of reforms.

"This is the only method of control where there is no book-keeping and as such it is an essential part of the package."

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 9, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early daytime restlessness and nervousness is soon replaced by the ability to use some extra energy for constructive activity. Work toward long-time property interests.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may not be thinking straight in the morning, so handle that important concern later when your judgment is fine.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may be confused where financial affairs are concerned in the morning, but talk to experts to clarify your thinking.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Changing your attitude and plans can bring about better results now. Await the evening before going out with friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A problem may require a few hours of deep thought if you are to solve it best. Participate in group activities.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) An outside situation could be confusing during the day, but should clarify itself by evening for fine results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study whatever is expected of you by a prominent person and then conscientiously try to please. Avoid a trouble-maker.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Steer clear of any new interests in the morning and delve only into the tried and true all day long.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't rely on your hunches today, but rely on mature judgment and get good results. Plan for the week ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't have arguments with loved ones in the morning. Discuss differences later in a sensible fashion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't get bogged down with extra work in the morning since after lunch you can please partners more.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may find that friends may contact you for recreational purposes so don't go seeking any new forms of amusement.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Any situation that arises at home in the morning should not bother you. Later, enjoy amusements that you like.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be quite sorely tested during early life, but will become the stronger for it and learn a good deal and be able to help others with their problems. Teach to be more objective and not take things so much to heart, and then the life becomes happy and of great service to others.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henn Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IRYAH

SUROC

MUJERP

DARAMA

There he goes again

WHAT A SLEEP-WALKER'S HABIT USUALLY IS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

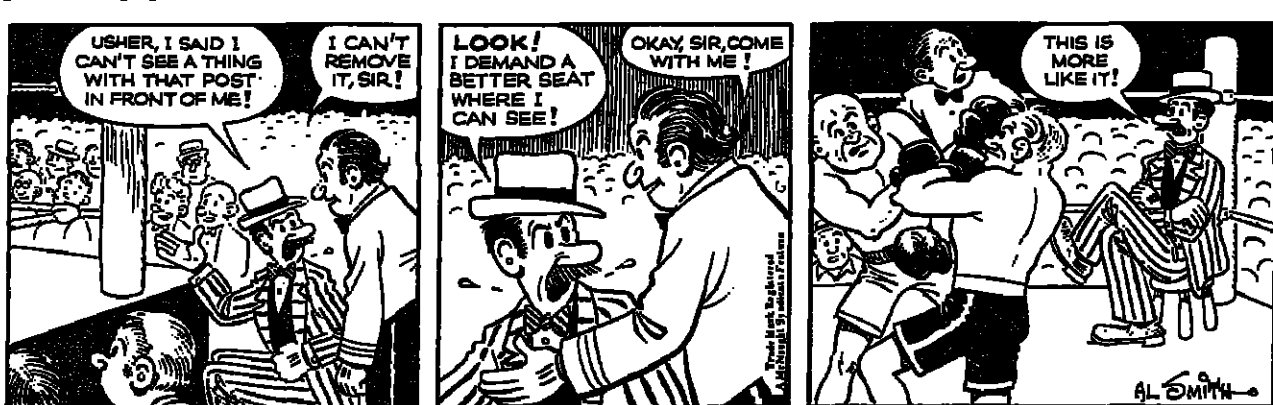
Yesterday's Jumble: FLOUR WHEEL OPIATE BECALM

Answer: What she did every time she washed her hair — BLEW HER TOP

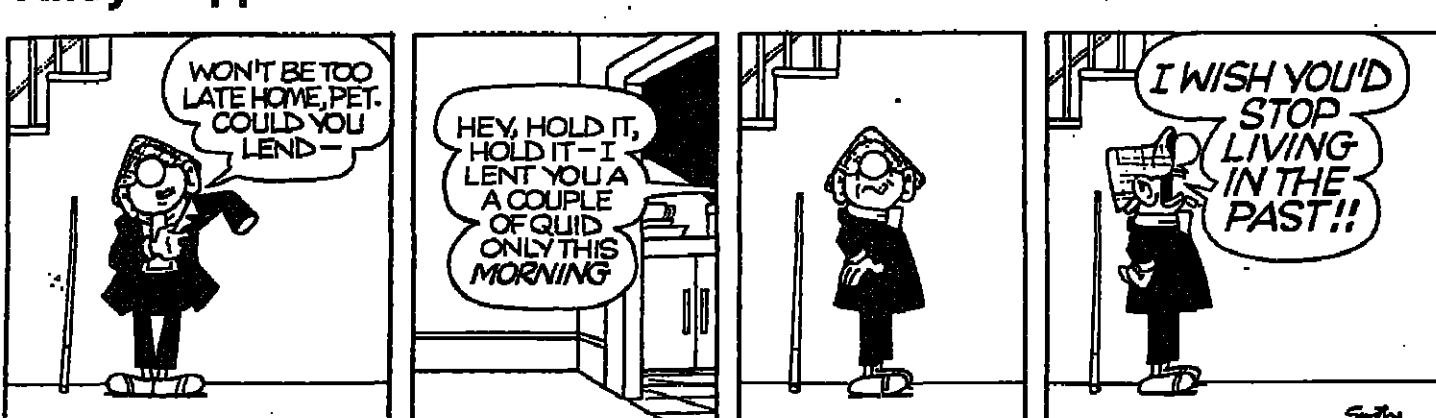
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

ACROSS

- 1 Banquet bigwig
- 4 Budy
- 7 Business conduct abbr.
- 10 Depression
- 11 Initials
- 13 Prize-winning musical group
- 15 Ornament, e.g.
- 17 Site of Bernadette's grotto
- 18 In a proud manner
- 19 Donkeys
- 20 Pen
- 22 Blustered
- 23 Carlo Menotti
- 24 Plane section
- 25 Georgia's lyricist
- 26 Sharp-cornered abbr.
- 27 Fruit
- 28 Fort — Chad
- 29 Military VIP
- 33 Bright — penny
- 34 Cultivate
- 35 Big cheese
- 42 Like rattan
- 43 Anatomical fold
- 44 Put an — to
- 45 Transit syst.
- 47 Follow closely
- 48 Ace
- 49 "Kalevala" for one
- 51 Place for curriers
- 52 Billard stroke
- 53 Kitchen need
- 55 "Wonderful —"
- 57 Veldt bird
- 58 Decagon and rhomb
- 59 Rhine
- 60 Pussy cat
- 61 Orlando's state abbr.
- 62 Eye sore

DOWN

- 1 White wine
- 2 Finale
- 3 Breakfast fare
- 4 Cushions
- 5 Soul: Fr.
- 6 Pride of Milan
- 7 Bar order
- 8 Verdant
- 9 Label
- 10 Mary's partner
- 11 Sicilian port
- 12 Nevertheless
- 14 Br. gun
- 16 Founder of Persian sect
- 21 Ancient coin
- 24 Indonesian
- 26 Network
- 28 In — of
- 30 Hang, premier
- 31 Lean-to
- 32 Body of an organism
- 35 Philharmonic member
- 36 Demands
- 37 Erect
- 38 Kindred
- 39 Opening play in a stadium
- 40 Fault finders
- 41 Israel's legislature
- 42 Gnomes
- 45 Stylish
- 47 Harpoc part
- 48 Pacific island
- 50 Dec. holiday
- 52 Powerful comb. form
- 54 Actor Torn
- 56 None

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

GEIDE MAISE ABERTIA
 LALIED EERY LOTRIA
 HIALSTREEDBLUES
 ONE TRAY RUBLES
 GRIT SEWI
 APIDICEWANSLOIT
 LAIDED AND LOAN
 ATIDIE SITE ISLAL
 ERAL SEC MAIGIT
 ISINOTAHIPYONE
 EDAM DIALS
 ISRAEL RODS PAW
 STAIRSKYANDHUYCH
 TOTIES EMIL PATIE
 OPIERIA APITL SHIAT

U.S. sells arms worth \$14.6 billion this year

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States sold arms worth \$14.6 billion to its allies and other friendly countries this year, with Turkey and Saudi Arabia the biggest customers, according to Pentagon records.

The figure was down from 1983's \$18.3 billion.

There are no comparable figures for Soviet sales — the Soviet Union does not publish such information — but U.S. officials said the two countries run roughly even as the world's biggest arms exporters.

Defence officials said the drop in U.S. arms sales this year did not reflect any new Reagan administration policy, only the ebb and flow of the world's arms business in which a country may buy heavily one year and little the next.

This year's biggest buyer, Turkey, agreed to purchases totalling \$4.5 billion, \$4.2 billion of which went on 160 F-16 fighter planes.

Turkey, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

(NATO), is modernising its armed forces and last year bought \$576 million worth of U.S. arms.

Following Turkey this year was Saudi Arabia, with \$3 billion in purchases, chiefly of command, control and communications equipment.

Saudi Arabia, long a major buyer of U.S. arms, is also modernising its armed forces. Last year it bought arms worth \$1.9 billion from the United States.

The third biggest purchaser was the Netherlands, which agreed to buy \$1.4 billion worth of arms, including 57 F-16 fighters for \$1.2 billion. In 1983 the Dutch bought arms worth \$325 million.

Egypt, another regular U.S. customer, bought \$1 billion worth

of military equipment, chiefly tanks, armoured cars and missiles. Its 1983 purchases amounted to \$722 million.

Taiwan this year bought U.S. arms worth \$707 million.

Other major buyers this year were Australia, \$429 million; Britain, \$422 million; Canada, \$362 million; West Germany, \$257 million; Japan, \$218 million; and Pakistan, \$206 million.

Spain, the major buyer last year at \$3.2 billion, reflecting the purchase of 72 F-18 fighter planes, bought \$48 million worth of U.S. arms this year.

Israel, which bought U.S. arms worth \$2.5 billion last year, cut back to \$1.1 billion this year while paying for previous purchases.

Sales to Latin America and the Caribbean included El Salvador, \$146 million; Honduras, \$41 million; Ecuador, \$37 million; and Brazil, \$9 million.



SAFE AT LAST: A young Pakistani woman hugs her brother and is consoled by her mother after arriving at Karachi airport Friday. She was a passenger on a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner diverted to Tehran Tuesday (AP wirephoto)

Union Carbide faces \$15b lawsuit for alleged negligence in gas leak

NEW YORK (R) — A \$15-billion suit has been filed against Union Carbide alleging negligence in the gas leak disaster that killed 2,000 people in Bhopal, India.

Miami lawyers Michael Tobin and Jack Thomson filed the suit in association with San Francisco lawyer Melvin Belli on behalf of two residents of Bhopal whose relatives were among those killed by the gas from a plant owned by Union Carbide's Indian subsidiary.

They claim negligence on the part of Union Carbide and ask for \$5 billion compensatory damages and \$10 billion punitive damages.

A spokesman at Union Carbide's headquarters at Danbury, Connecticut, told Reuters: "We are expecting notice of the lawsuit to be served on one of the officers of the company either over the weekend or on Monday."

"We cannot make any comment on the lawsuit, or say what our response will be, until it has been served," he said.

Mr. Thomson told Reuters the lawsuit reflected his firm's "strong feeling that American technology caused this tragedy."

He said two clients were involved in the action so far, but he expected many more to be represented.

The two are Sheela Bai Dawani, 34, whose husband, Ramesh Kumar, was killed by the gas and Rehman Patel, 52, a railway worker who lost his wife, Mahru, 44, and daughter, Sarruk, 14.

Disaster toll rises

Meanwhile, the death toll from a poisonous gas leak at a pesticides factory here stood at well over 2,000 Saturday following the deaths of 11 more people, the Press Trust of India reported.

Indian authorities have released Warren Anderson, chief of the factory's owners Union Carbide, on bail on the understanding he leaves the country as soon as possible.

Mr. Anderson arrived in this ravaged central Indian city Friday only to find himself under house arrest for several hours.

All India Radio said Saturday the gas leak on Monday affected one quarter of Bhopal's 700,000 people. The old city and areas within a one kilometre radius of the plant were worst hit, it said.

The radio quoted a state government official as saying rumours that the city was to be evacuated and that fish in the city lake were dead were "totally baseless and were put out by mischief-mongers."

Mr. Anderson had been detained with two top Indian officials of Union Carbide.

In his first public comment since arriving in India on Thursday, Mr. Anderson told Reuters at New Delhi Airport he was taken to a company guesthouse by police when he reached Bhopal.

"A magistrate came in and I was given five charges including criminal negligence. I was subsequently allowed to leave on bail and taken on a government plane here (New Delhi)," he said.

He was met in New Delhi by an American diplomat and driven immediately from the airport to the U.S. embassy.

Asked to comment on his arrest, Mr. Anderson said: "The thing is we have work to do, but from their point of view we have to be kept out. My immediate concern is to get the people affected immediate disaster relief."

Sudip Bannerji, director of information for the Madhya Pradesh state government told reporters: "Our understanding is that (Anderson) will be asked to leave the country at the earliest. This has been done because his presence might provoke strong passions against him and because we do not consider his presence in this country desirable."

A Union Carbide spokesman

said the two Indian executives were still under some form of detention.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said Keshub Mahindra, chairman of the Union Carbide Indian subsidiary and its managing director, V.P. Gokhale, were remanded to police custody until Monday by Bhopal's Chief Magistrate B.M. Tandon late Friday night.

Mr. Bannerji said Mr. Anderson was released on bail of 25,000 rupees (\$2,000). "We have released him because he is not required for investigations into the case and because there was never any intention of persecuting him," he said.

He said the charges against Anderson would not be dropped and would be pursued when investigations ended.

While Mr. Anderson and the two Indian executives were in police custody at the factory's guest house, about 100 people demonstrated outside the building carrying placards reading "hang Anderson."

"We are convinced on the basis of facts already available that each of them has criminal liability for events that led to this grim tragedy," Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjun Singh told reporters.

Bhopal was slowly returning to normal but hundreds of gas victims were still crowding the city's two main hospitals.

Bhopal Medical Services Director M.N. Nagu told Reuters some 3,700 medical staff in the city had started inoculating survivors to head off a possible cholera epidemic.

"My first task is to see that no one dies of lung disorders and the second is to prevent victims from going blind from ulcers in their eyes," he said.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said state authorities were expected to file a lawsuit for damages against the U.S. company.

Zia starts campaign tour for referendum

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan President Muhammad Zia ul Haq began a whirlwind campaign tour Saturday in support of a controversial referendum this month while its critics remain barred from travelling widely or publicising their views.

Gen. Zia will barnstorm through at least 20 cities and towns in 10 days of continuous campaigning for the referendum on his programme of Islamic reforms which, if it passes, will automatically make him president for five years.

Pakistan's official media have already launched a broad pro-referendum and pro-Zia campaign, lauding Gen. Zia in adulatory terms not heard here in the 7-1/2 years of the normally modest military ruler's stint in power.

Critics of the referendum, which will ask voters if they approve Gen. Zia's Islamic reforms and plans for polls by March, have been threatened with jail and stiff fines if they urge people to boycott the exercise.

Newspapers are not allowed to publish criticism of the referendum and most leaders of the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), which has called for a boycott, are effectively barred from campaigns like Gen. Zia's by orders banning them from entering certain provinces.

Gen. Zia's tour was beginning in Sahiwal, 210 kilometres south of Islamabad, and concentrate heavily on Punjab province, where almost 60 per cent of Pakistan's population lives and pro-government support is considered strongest.

It will take him to all four provincial capitals and cities as far as Gwadar near the Iranian border. Gen. Zia will also visit Hyderabad and Sukkur, two islands of moderate politics in the normally unruly southern province of Sind.

Gen. Zia planned a series of large public rallies earlier this year to drum up support for his election plan, which the opposition also rejects, but dropped it after students disrupted a meeting in Peshawar in March.

State-run television has begun broadcasting so-called "national solidarity" advertisements based on appeals to Islamic and patriotic feelings to get people out to vote for the president.

Gen. Zia, himself a normally modest man who has shunned any hint of a personality cult since seizing power in 1977, is now being praised as a wise and courageous statesman Pakistan cannot afford to lose.

One television speaker even played on the name Zia ul Haq (light of righteousness) saying the president had brought these qualities into his daily exercise of power.

Prince Andrew has new girlfriend

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Andrew has a new girlfriend, the dark-haired, 21-year-old daughter of a film producer, a London newspaper reported Saturday.

Victoria MacDonald is a dancer and part-owner of a fashionable night club, the Daily Express said. It quoted a close friend as saying the prince, a naval officer, was "besotted" with her. Prince Andrew, 24, is Queen Elizabeth's second son and his private life has rarely been out of the headlines since his romance with one-time soft-porn actress Koo Stark two years ago. Earlier this year another girlfriend, blonde actress Katie Rabbett, sued a newspaper after it printed what it claimed were nude pictures of her. Saturday's Express quoted Victoria's mother as saying: "I was astonished when Vicky told me about the friendship but she is taking it all in her stride. She is a very level-headed girl — and very discreet. I am sure she realises the prince is a bit of a lad about town who is probably having the time of his life."

Actor goes to jail for drug offence

LONDON (R) — American film actor Stacey Keach was jailed for nine months Saturday for trying to smuggle cocaine into Britain in a shaving foam aerosol. He served notice he would appeal but was refused bail and court officials said he would begin his sentence Saturday night in Reading jail, west of London. Keach's secretary Deborah Steel was jailed for three months for the same offence and was also refused bail. Their appeal will be heard in about 10 days. They admitted carrying 31 grammes of the drug into the country last April. They were stopped by customs men at London's Heathrow Airport after flying in from France. A package of cocaine was found in an aerosol, another was wrapped in a handkerchief in Steel's pocket and two pills were hidden in Keach's luggage. The 43-year-old actor told Reading crown court: "I can't deny the deep humiliation and embarrassment for what happened."

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One television speaker even played on the name Zia ul Haq (light of righteousness) saying the president had brought these qualities into his daily exercise of power.

10-year-olds loot shops in riot

AUCKLAND (R) — Rock Fans, some only 10-year-old, grabbed guns from sport shops during a looting rampage by hundreds of people in central Auckland after a free concert was halted, police said Saturday. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Graham Perry said the two-hour riot Friday night was the worst in the city's history. Some 400 police were mobilised as the youths overturned police cars and plundered more than 60 shops. Perry said. The rioters smashed sports shop windows and seized guns, bottles and rocks. A total of 175 people appeared in court Saturday including a member of an Auckland suburban city council.

Beach Boys drummer reportedly choked to death

LONDON (R) — American drummer Wells Kelly, who played with the Beach Boys and Meatloaf Bands, choked to death after snuffing heroin and cocaine, an inquest heard Friday. Kelly, 35, was found doubled up over railings on Oct. 29 outside the Meatloaf Band's apartment in the exclusive St. John's Wood district of London, the inquest was told. He and band colleagues had been to a concert the previous night and then attended a party at a London Hotel. Pathologist Iain West said Kelly had no injection marks on him and the level of heroin and cocaine he had snuffed was "not desperately high."

Feathers fly at turkey pluckers' big day

BURSTOW, England (R) — Nearly 30 rivals failed to strip Irishman Vincent Pilkington of his title as World Turkey Plucking Champion. Pilkington, 36, from Dublin, retained the title for the seventh successive year by defeating a fattened turkey for the Christmas table in five minutes and 19 seconds. The winner said of his technique: "I pluck with both hands. If one hand gets tired, I can do it with the other."

Colombo clamps curfew on north

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's government clamped a weekend curfew on its troubled Tamil districts in the north as thousands of Sinhalese flocked to join the army in the south.

The government announced a 42-hour curfew from noon (0630 GMT) Saturday for the Jaffna peninsula and northern Mullaitivu area to stem separatist violence which has claimed at least 370 lives in three weeks.

Much of the northern tip of the island has been under night curfew since guerrillas stepped up their campaign for a separate state for the country's 2.6 million minority Tamil population.

As state radio repeated the curfew announcement, thousands of youths queued at recruiting centres in the south to join the Sinhalese-dominated army in response to a government appeal. The navy mobilised volunteers

two days ago and the air force recruited 450 volunteers last week.

The government has set up civil defence groups and mobilised the home guard to protect key installations during the current upsurge of violence which it says is aimed at provoking an anti-Tamil backlash from the majority Sinhalese in the south.

There have been no reports of serious communal fighting but informed sources said Friday the army had killed civilians in revenge for guerrilla attacks on soldiers.

Official sources said 102 people died in shooting incidents near Mannar town after rebels blew up an army convoy on Tuesday killing one soldier.

The informed sources said most of the victims were Tamil civilians. The government denied soldiers had gone on a rampage but National Security Minister Lalith

Athulathmudali said Friday it would investigate the shootings and discipline anyone found responsible.

In August the authorities said troops had gone on a fire-bombing rampage of Tamil-owned shops in Mannar after attacks on the army.

A government spokesman said Saturday 18 rebels armed with automatic weapons landed at Arippu on the north west coast Friday.

Security forces have declared much of the northern coastline a prohibited zone to prevent guerrillas landing arms and men from southern India.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he was studying an unconfirmed press report from New Delhi Friday that India had sent a naval vessel to protect Indian fishermen in the 20-mile-wide Palk Strait which separates Sri Lanka from India.

Hungary promotes young officials in latest reshuffle

VIENNA (R) — The Hungarian authorities' decision to promote younger officials in a government reshuffle has given hints of future candidates for top office but does not suggest any major change in policy, Western diplomats said Saturday.

The reshuffle was announced by the Presidential Council a day after a meeting of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee on Dec. 5. The main surprise was the appointment of a woman, Judit Csehak, 44, as deputy prime minister.

In Eastern Europe, where elderly men are still the norm in the top ranks of government, both Ms. Csehak's sex and age are significant, the diplomats said.

The top two men at the Defence Ministry were also changed and two influential young Communist Party officials were promoted. More changes in the Com-

munist hierarchy will emerge at next March's party congress, although veteran leader Janos Kadar, 72, seems likely to be confirmed in his post again, diplomats said.

Before this week's announcement there had been some speculation that Prime Minister Gyorgy Lazar, 70, who has been ill recently, would step down.

"Everyone's agreed he will go because he has health problems, but it's a question of when," one diplomat said.

But Ms. Csehak's appointment to a fifth additional post of deputy prime minister, which will take some of the weight of Mr. Lazar's shoulders, could suggest he is to stay in office for a longer period, some diplomats said.

In Communist countries the office of prime minister is that of a chief executive, implementing the decisions of the party leadership.

15 injured as strike paralyses Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — At least 15 people were injured in a police-student clash Saturday during a nationwide anti-government strike that has paralysed Bangladesh, police said.

The 24-hour strike, called by two opposition alliances, has closed shops and offices and stopped transport and industry across Bangladesh.

The clash began when students and political workers started pelting police patrols in Dhaka with stones, police said.

They said opposition supporters also stoned the home and car of former President Khandaker Mosharraf Ahmad, damaging them. He was unhurt.

Minister for Labour and Manpower Shah Moazzem Hossain said Friday the strike was expected to cost the government about \$25 million in losses of industrial production.

The strike, the 16th since military President Hossain Mohammad Ershad took power nearly three years ago, is part of an opposition campaign to force him to hold parliamentary elections under a neutral government.

Sheikh Hasina Wazed and Begum Khaleda Zia, the daughter and widow of two assassinated Bangladesh presidents and now leaders of the two alliances, said Friday the strike would be a "litmus test" of popular support.

But an Ershad aide said the strike would not reflect public opinion.

Declaring did reasonably well, but he had a far better line available — a dummy reversal. He should ruff the opening lead high, cash a high trump and enter dummy with a trump. Declarer ruffs another club and again gets back to dummy with a trump to ruff the last club. Now declarer crosses to the board with the ace of hearts or a diamond and clears trumps. He can get rid of dummy's losing heart on the fourth diamond.

What declarer has done is to treat dummy as the master hand. In all, he scores seven trump tricks — three by ruffing clubs — and four diamonds, as well as the ace-king of hearts.

Marcos unbuttons shirt to show cabinet he is fit

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Saturday bared his chest to members of his cabinet to show he had no scars from surgery.

He was presiding over a 95-minute cabinet meeting after a long public absence. The presidential palace said he has been suffering from influenza, asthma and allergies.

But there have been widespread reports and rumours that Mr. Marcos might have undergone major surgery on his heart or kidney and that he needed a tracheotomy.

"Before buckling down to work, the chief executive elicited a good laugh from his official family when he raised his Barong Tagalog (shirt) to show that he has had

no surgery," the official Philippine News Agency said.

"He also unbuttoned his Barong for all to see that his neck has not been punctured."

The cabinet meeting was called to discuss the economic situation. It was attended by military commanders and security also was discussed, the news agency said.

The palace said it was the first full cabinet meeting since Nov. 11. Mr. Marcos has appeared in public only briefly since then.

The cabinet discussed a recent overseas tour by Prime Minister Cesar Virata and Central Bank Governor Jobo Fernandez who visited the United States, Europe and Japan seeking commitments from creditor banks for new financial aid for the Philippines.

Poland releases key Solidarity leaders

WARSAW (R) — Poland's Communist government has given an amnesty to two Solidarity activists accused of treason whose release was demanded by the United States in return for progress towards lifting sanctions.

Diplomats said the move was seen as a gesture towards improving Polish rapprochement with the West after martial law.

Opposition sources said the men, Bogdan Lis and Piotr Mierzejewicz, were expected to leave Warsaw's Rakowiec Prison for political prisoners almost immediately.

Mr. Lis, a founder figure in Solidarity, was a member of the banned free trade union's five-man underground leadership (TKK) until his capture last June.

He and Mr. Mierzejewicz were accused of trying to overthrow Communist rule and were excluded from a political amnesty granted to other Solidarity off-

enders in July.

The U.S. government has indicated their release would secure the lifting of its veto on Poland joining the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which will give the Warsaw government possible access to fresh Western credit.

The veto was part of a range of Western sanctions imposed on Poland in retaliation for the suppression of Solidarity under martial law in 1981.

The amnesty for Mr. Lis and Mr. Mierzejewicz was made easier by the surrender and immediate release Friday of TKK member Eugeniusz Szumiejko who quit the underground for family reasons.

Until his arrest Mr. Lis, who headed Solidarity's underground structure in Gdansk, was one of the most wanted men in Poland.

The country's Roman Catholic bishops urged the government Friday to respect "basic human

rights" following the murder of pro-Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko and a new campaign by Communist officials to remove crucifixes from public buildings.

A communiqué said Fr. Popieluszko's killing by security police in October "moved the consciences of people throughout the world ... may the mechanisms from which the crime resulted disappear for ever."

A church source said the removal of crosses, a frequent cause of tension with the authorities, was occurring in several parts of the country. Such action at a school in Garwolin near Warsaw last winter caused a crisis in church-state relations.

A local government official in Kielce province in the south of the country said a reputation of the incident at a local school has prompted a sit-in by 100 pupils and two priests.

South Africa confirms release of 11 detainees

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police Saturday confirmed that 11 people held without trial under security laws following a strike in Transvaal province last month have been freed.

A spokesman said the 11, who include union leaders Phiroshaw Camay and Chris Dlamini, were released Friday. Five other detainees were charged with subversion and granted bail.

The 16 were held in a police swoop which followed a largely successful two-day strike in protest at poor living conditions for blacks under the white minority government.

President Reagan announced the release of the 11 Friday shortly after a meeting with black South African Bishop Desmond Tutu, this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Mr. Reagan said the freeing of the 11 resulted from the U.S. policy of "constructive engagement" based on quiet diplomacy rather than confrontation to change the apartheid racial segregation policies of South Africa.

The Detainees' Parents Support Committee, a civil rights group, says there are still about 200 people held without trial in South Africa.

"This is the result of three weeks of ... quiet diplomacy and today it bore fruit," Mr. Reagan told reporters as he left the White House.

"After three weeks of working with the government there, I don't think we are too bold in taking credit for this," he said.

White House officials said the release of the prisoners underlined Mr. Reagan's contention to Tutu Saturday morning that constructive engagement was working.

Tutu, a black South African bishop who has strongly criticised

Mr. Reagan's policy, said as he left the White House that he was not convinced.

Mr. Reagan said at a press conference immediately after he met Tutu that he would consider new ideas for increasing pressure aimed at changing South Africa's apartheid policy.

He said, however, he would continue his current policy, which rules out such actions as economic sanctions against South Africa.

As he left for Camp David, Mr. Reagan said that when he met Tutu he did not know that the South African government was about to release the 11 prisoners, who were jailed in the aftermath of months of violence.

Demands for the release of all 16 prisoners have been a major focus of daily demonstrations outside the South African embassy in Washington.

As has become a recent custom, three well-known civil-rights supporters were arrested Friday for demonstrating near the embassy. They were Santa Jackson, daughter of black leader and presidential aspirant Jesse Jackson; Congresswoman Cardiss Collins and Sister Mary O'Keefe of the Association of American Nuns.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes, echoing Mr. Reagan's claim that U.S. policy brought about the prisoners' reported release, told reporters: "We have no evidence that the demonstrators contributed to the decision of the South African government."

Mr. Speakes also disputed suggestions that the releases had been timed in order to weaken U.S. action against apartheid.

Mr. Speakes said U.S. officials had pressed publicly and privately for the release of the prisoners as soon as the arrests began about Nov. 10.

GOREN BRIDGE.

BY CHARLES GOREN
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DO IT BACKWARDS!

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 8 2
♥ A J 4
♦ K Q J
♣ K 8 6

WEST
♠ 3
♥ 10 2
♦ 7 4 3 2
♣ Q J 9 7 4 2

EAST
♠ 6 5 4
♥ Q 9 8 7
♦ 6 5
♣ A 10 5 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 9 7
♥ K 6 5 3
♦ A 10 9 8
♣ Void

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
5 ♥ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

By and large, grand slams are not a great investment. Unless you are pretty sure you are going to make it, you lose the small slam and game bonuses as well if you go down at a seven-bid because of a bad break or some slight miscalculation.

This